

DISCOVERY

AFMC command chief retires after 30 years in blue

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command's top enlisted leader walks away from the only organization she's ever worked for as an adult Aug. 20, retiring from the Air Force after more than 30 years.

Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin has spent the last year advising Gen. Gregory Martin, AFMC commander, on all aspects of the command's 20,000-member enlisted force. She and General Martin worked together three and one-half years before coming here as United States Air Forces in Europe command chief and commander, respectively.

At retirement, she'll hang up a uniform she's worn since August 1974. She said she's going to take 11 days off before starting work Sept. 1 for a Forth Worth, Texas, civilian company's marketing department. There she'll put her decades of experience to use, helping that company relate more effectively with enlisted members of all branches of service.

Chief Mauldin's career has taken her to duty in five states and three foreign countries, first as a maintainer specializing in avionics, then as a command chief master sergeant. She took on AFMC's command chief duties in August 2003, following General Martin at his request.

Thinking about retirement and ending the Air Force chapter of her life, the chief said joy, sadness and a sense of accomplishment and loss are flooding her soul.

"I don't know any life other than the military, and



Courtesy Photo

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin, AFMC command chief, enter one of the many ceremonies they've attended together. Chief Mauldin, who followed General Martin to AFMC at his request, retired Aug. 20, after serving 30 years in the Air Force.

"I've loved every minute of it," she said, recalling entering the Air Force at the ripe old age of 18 years and 2 days. "My dad served in the Navy in World War II, and I have uncles who served in Vietnam, so I grew up listening to stories about service, camaraderie and watching each other's back. I wanted to be a part of that, so military service was a natural step.

"The thought of a little ole country girl from West Virginia, who graduated high school with the same people she went to grade school with, becoming part of and retiring from an organization that spans the world is awesome."

That natural step launched what has become three decades of trying to make a difference in people's lives and putting

others' needs before her own — attributes Chief Mauldin said are the cornerstone of success in her book.

"I've tried very hard to not make my career about me, it's about others," the chief said.

She recalled a time at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, when an Airman came up to her and thanked her for caring so much for the enlisted troops.

"I didn't know him, what I had done or what impact that I'd had on him personally," she said. "But when I can go home at the end of the day or look back and say I did something for someone, that I made their burden a little easier, to me that was a success. That's why I've loved being a command chief."

In February 1998, Chief Mauldin crossed the career bridge to the command chief special duty, taking on her first such duties at Third Air Force headquarters, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. That change came with mixed emotions.

See Chief Mauldin/7

Challenger Center partners with NASA on research study

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is partnering with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Brooks-based Challenger Learning Center on a "Projects in Space" research study that potentially could help the space agency improve program manager performance in high-risk situations and groom the next generation of space management professionals.

The project was selected from among 54 proposals by NASA's Universities Space Research Association, a non-profit university consortium, whose Center for Program/Project Management Research has operated as a virtual institute since its inception in October 2003.

CPMR is primarily involved in promoting university-based world-class research that addresses internationally significant

problems in program and project management, with specific emphasis on the aeronautics and space program.

"NASA wants to get better at program management in high-risk scenarios, specifically in team interactions," said Dr. Kevin Grant, UTSA's Assistant Professor of Management and "Projects in Space" principal investigator.

He believes the impetus for this NASA initiative partly involves past communications failures that may have contributed to the Challenger and Columbia shuttle accidents.

David Holdridge, CPMR associate director, said UTSA's phase one research proposal was approved because it fulfilled certain NASA criteria that leverages for the first time Challenger Learning Center assets.

"The cornerstone of our phase one effort is to develop and evaluate a 'Projects in Space' mis-

See Partnership/6

Air Force vet to serve as AFMC command chief

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — A 26-year Air Force veteran currently pulling senior enlisted duties at Bolling Air Force Base, District of Columbia, is set to become Air Force Materiel Command's next command chief master sergeant.

Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Hake, current command chief for Bolling's 11th Wing, is set to arrive no later than Sept. 15.

He'll take over for a retired Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin in advising

the AFMC commander on all aspects regarding the command's 20,000-plus enlisted members.

The chief was born in York, Penn., and enlisted in the Air Force in June 1978.

He's held several positions in the Wideband-Satellite Communications career field and deployed extensively during assignments with five major commands and a joint-service agency. Before taking on the duties at Bolling, Chief Hake was the Eleventh Air Force command chief at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Chief Hake has seen permanent duty at bases in four foreign countries and eight states, including two tours with the White House Communications Agency in Washington, D.C.

He also deployed for 98 days to King Abdul Aziz Air Base, and 128 days to Prince Sultan Air Base, both located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More information about Chief Hake and his leadership philosophies will be published in the next issue of Discovery.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

NASA, the University of Texas-San Antonio and the Challenger Learning Center are partnering on a "Project in Space" study that could lead to the creation of a new generation of project managers for the space agency.

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DISCOVERY

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COMMENTARY

Commander's thoughts on recent nomination

By Gen. Greg Martin

Air Force Materiel Command Commander

As you may have heard, this past week President Bush nominated me to serve as Commander of U.S. Pacific Command located at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. I want you, the men and women of the Air Force Materiel Command, to know that although I am very honored, and humbled, by this nomination, I am also torn between the important duties of being your Commander during a period of major transition in AFMC and this new and critical opportunity to command one of the United States' Combatant Commands.

As you know, I have been impressed by what you do to make our Air Force the greatest Air and Space Force in the world. Your response to the changes we are making has been so inspiring and I am extremely proud to be your Commander. But, as is always the case in our military, when our leadership asks us to strap on new responsibilities, we launch into those new challenges with a sense of appreciation for the confidence expressed in our potential and a desire to live up to the expectations.

In this case, I also want you to know that the individual who has been nominated to command AFMC, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, is the exact right person for the job — not only because I have known him for many years

(we flew F-4s together in the same flight at Holloman Air Force Base, as lieutenants 31 years ago), but also because of his experience in SAF/AQ, AF/XOR, the Joint Staff's J-8, and now as the Commander of the Mighty 8th Air Force.

He is a magnificent Air Force leader who will help take this Command to even higher levels. Of course, both nominations require Senate confirmation, so until that process concludes any further comment or anticipation would be inappropriate.

Once again, let me express my sincere appreciation for what you do every day in support of our Command, our Air Force, and our Country. Your diverse skills and backgrounds, Airmen and Air Force civilians alike, come together to make AFMC and our Air Force the world's best. I'm proud to serve as your Commander and represent such a magnificent team of professionals.

I believe each of you demonstrate excellence every day across our Command — in the Product Centers, Air Logistics Centers, Test Centers, Labs and Specialized Centers. Your talent, experience, dedication, integrity, discipline, and professionalism are second to none. I've never been more proud of any organization I've served in. You inspire me to work even harder at achieving our shared vision: To be a valued team member of the world's most respected Air and Space Force.

Maybe a 'Thank You' is in order

Commentary by Geoff Janes

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Have you ever watched someone right before he or she cries? It's a very humbling experience.

Picture Staff Sgt. So-and-So getting off the refueling plane at his home station. He puts his right foot on the flight line and looks around for his family or friends. It has only been 45 days, but it feels like an eternity.

In the waiting crowd, there she stands — all 39 inches of her — smile wide as the Nile, flag in her hand. "Daddy!!!" she cries.

He drops his bags, leans down and swoops her up like a stack of money. But her grasping little arms around his neck are worth more than any paycheck, more than any 5,000 square-foot house, Jaguar, Mercedes, Ping golf clubs, CDs, whatever.

"I'm home," he whispers softly in his wife's ear before looking skyward to his God. It feels so good to know someone was waiting.

The commander, or vice commander steps up, shakes his hand. It matters.

"What I've been doing matters," he thinks.

Back at his home-station job, he left work early today. He has cooked dinner, and only wants to make his wife smile.

At another time, someplace else, a female warrior straightens the collar on her uniform as she steps off the surveillance plane. She stands proud. She didn't have to worry about anything. He had it covered.

In the crowd her son holds a piece of poster board that he and daddy have written "Welcome Home Mommy" in black magic marker. Her little angel has cut out pictures from his favorite comic book and pasted them to the poster. Everyone needs a hero.

Blue, brown, green and hazel eyes, they all well up like someone has turned on a faucet.

The eye brims, it leaks, it breaks the dam of an eyelid and streams down a face covered with sadness and happiness mixed with uncertainty.

They are home, and all you can do is watch, watch and pray for good things. Pray for happiness, pray for peace, pray for all of them.

And as you watch the homecoming, you think, "If you haven't thanked a military member lately, you

should."

They are out there facing the mortars, listening to the snap of rounds firing above their heads, not to mention those who hear the snap that slams into their chests, arms, legs... Even so, there are some who move out sharply while a voice in the back of their head asks, "Was it worth the money for college?"

All the while, you're in your colonial, Cape Cod or ranch style house, watching it all on CNN. You might be watching it all from the warmth and safety of your living room.

You might be numb; but still, your next door neighbor's son came home in a box today. Your cousin's daughter won't be finishing college. She died in the heat of battle last week.

I remember being on the Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., burial team during my time in the Army. I remember saluting the dead. I remember carrying a coffin to a hole in the ground and thanking God it wasn't me.

And I remember the tears, tears that could humble even a saint.

Maybe I'll go tell my neighbor, with his Air Force flag and his starched uniform, how much I appreciate what he's been doing for my country.

Maybe we'll talk politics or religion, maybe we'll talk about fishing, or how good it feels to be helping a country that needs a hand. Maybe we'll smile and have a beer as we talk about how lucky we are to live in a free country.

And all the while, I'll know in my heart that it's all because of people just like my neighbor.

I think we all need to remember the fact that our friends and family members who wear the uniform press on with their duties regardless of the world situation. There are people joining the military heartily despite the fact that there's a war going on.

Other countries in the world have had their armies disintegrate because of casualties. Their people were not dedicated to the cause they served. That is what separates them from the mightiest nation on earth, the United States of America.

Just as with POW/MIA Day, we must always remember. So the next time you see someone in a military uniform, take two seconds out of your day to say thank you.

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Brooks' Project Office earns first commander's award



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

The base's highest honor — the Wing Commander's Award — was presented by Col. Tom Travis, the 311 Human Systems Wing Commander, to the Brooks City-Base Air Force Project Office

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They have helped save the Air Force significant amounts of money through cost-costing initiatives while helping support City-Base transformation. Now, they have transformed themselves into winners of their first 311th Human Systems Wing Commander's Award.

On Tuesday, Col. Thomas Travis, 311th HSW commander, presented the base's highest honor to the Brooks City-Base Air Force Project Office. The

quarterly award was given to the 22-member organization for contributions they made from April-June 2004.

During that period, the group was involved in several City-Base transformation initiatives that primarily focused on facilities, property and manpower issues. Among them, was their work contributing to the disestablishment of the 311th Security Forces Squadron that will save the Air Force an estimated \$1 million annually through the re-allocation of 22 active duty authorizations.

They also successfully negotiated an Air Force property and facilities lease amendment, involving the 111-acre golf course, that resulted in a "no-cost" license agreement to continue operating and maintaining the facility while saving the Air Force \$49,000.

Additionally, they negotiated an energy conservation agreement with the Brooks Development Authority involving air conditioning system improvements in the base's permanent-party dorm. The group also supported environmental compliance initiatives including the disposal of

more than 3,000 pounds of hazardous waste and provided training support to DoD units involved with the Environmental Compliance and Management Program.

Commander's Award honorees include: Rita Duggan, Susan Merchant, Gina Rios, Phil Starr, John McCarthy, Ray Hernandez, Jerry Lane, Hamid Kamalpour, Stephen Whatley, Ana Gill, Tracy Faulkner, Alvin Brown, Andy Cardenas, Robert Luna, Larry Icke, Rhonda Hilla, Kathe Masch, Amaeda Lowe, Cynthia Lopez, Christine Harisis, Sathedia Bush and John Arenson.



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Mon. - Wed. — Eucharist
11:30 a.m. —
Thursday Mass

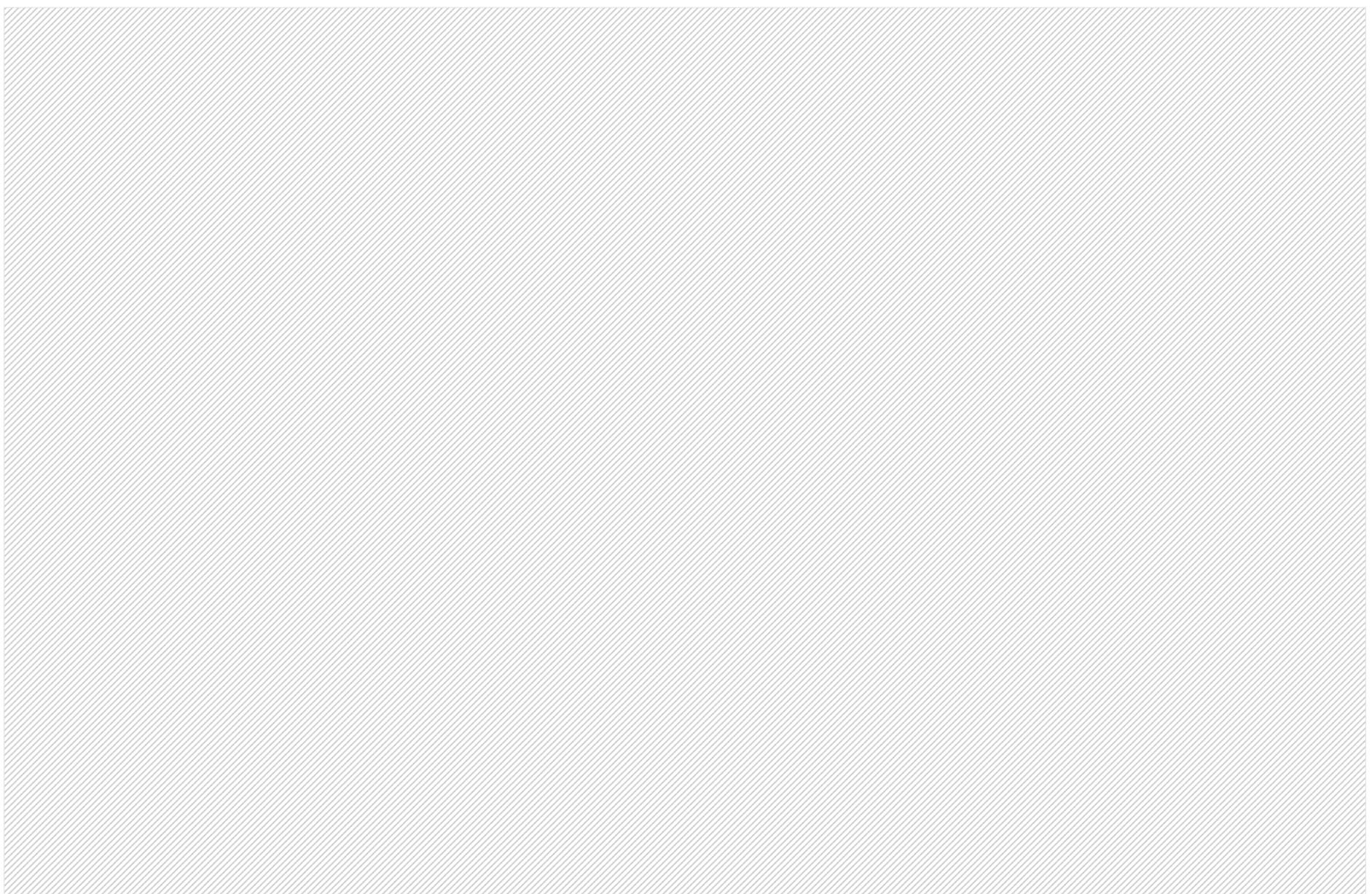
Wednesdays:
5:30 p.m. —
Protestant choir rehearsal

6:30 p.m. —
Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:
9 a.m. —
Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. —
Interdenominational
worship, includes child-
ren's church

6 p.m. —
Praise and Worship
service followed by a
meal





Former teacher-in-space candidate follows in mother's historic footsteps

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

She was only seven years old when her inventive mother Edna Bitter made Air Force history by fashioning a prototype space suit for America's first monkey in space. Now retired teacher Neesie Beal is contributing to space science education while making history at Brooks City-Base.

When Mrs. Beal joined the staff of the Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio this summer as a space camp counselor, she became a historical footnote in that she had been a first teacher in space candidate.

If she had been selected as America's first teacher astronaut, her photo would now be memorialized at Challenger Centers nationwide instead of 37-year-old Christa McAuliffe's.

America's first teacher in space died with six other crew members when the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986.

"I had the TV on in my classroom at Highland Park Elementary School when the Challenger exploded," she said of the moment that is seared into her memory.

Her mother, a career Air Force wife of a Brooks space science researcher, remembers vividly how she felt when she heard news of the disaster.

"I was in my car driving to the Brooks Club when I heard on the radio that it had not taken off. At the bar in the club, I saw officers filing in to watch the TV (newscast). I learned that the Challenger had exploded. I didn't come unglued (then). I said to myself, 'it could have been Neesie'," Mrs. Bitter said.

Shortly thereafter, her daughter phoned her. "She asked me 'aren't you glad I didn't make it?' I became unglued and cried salty tears," Mrs. Bitter said.

Her husband told her later, "I'd rather have a daughter on Earth than for her to be blown up and have a school named after her."

The irony of that statement forever lingers with Col. and Mrs. Bitter who live

at Air Force Village #1, located just a few miles away from the Christa McAuliffe Middle School on Loop 410 North.

"I wanted to go into space. It was part of my family upbringing. It started with my dad," said the 53-year-old daughter of Col. (Dr.) Lou Bitter, a former U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine physiologist who helped train the first primates in space.

Part of her childhood was spent at Brooks, a hotbed for early space science research. "Dad worked with Dr. Sid Leverett in G-force acceleration research. As a kid, I would feed the (research) monkeys," she said.

Mrs. Beal applied with 11,500 other teachers nationwide for NASA's "Teacher in Space" program that was launched in 1985. She didn't make the cut then, but now is enjoying simulated space as a part-time Challenger Center flight director.

"It's been very rewarding," she says of her work at space camp that featured

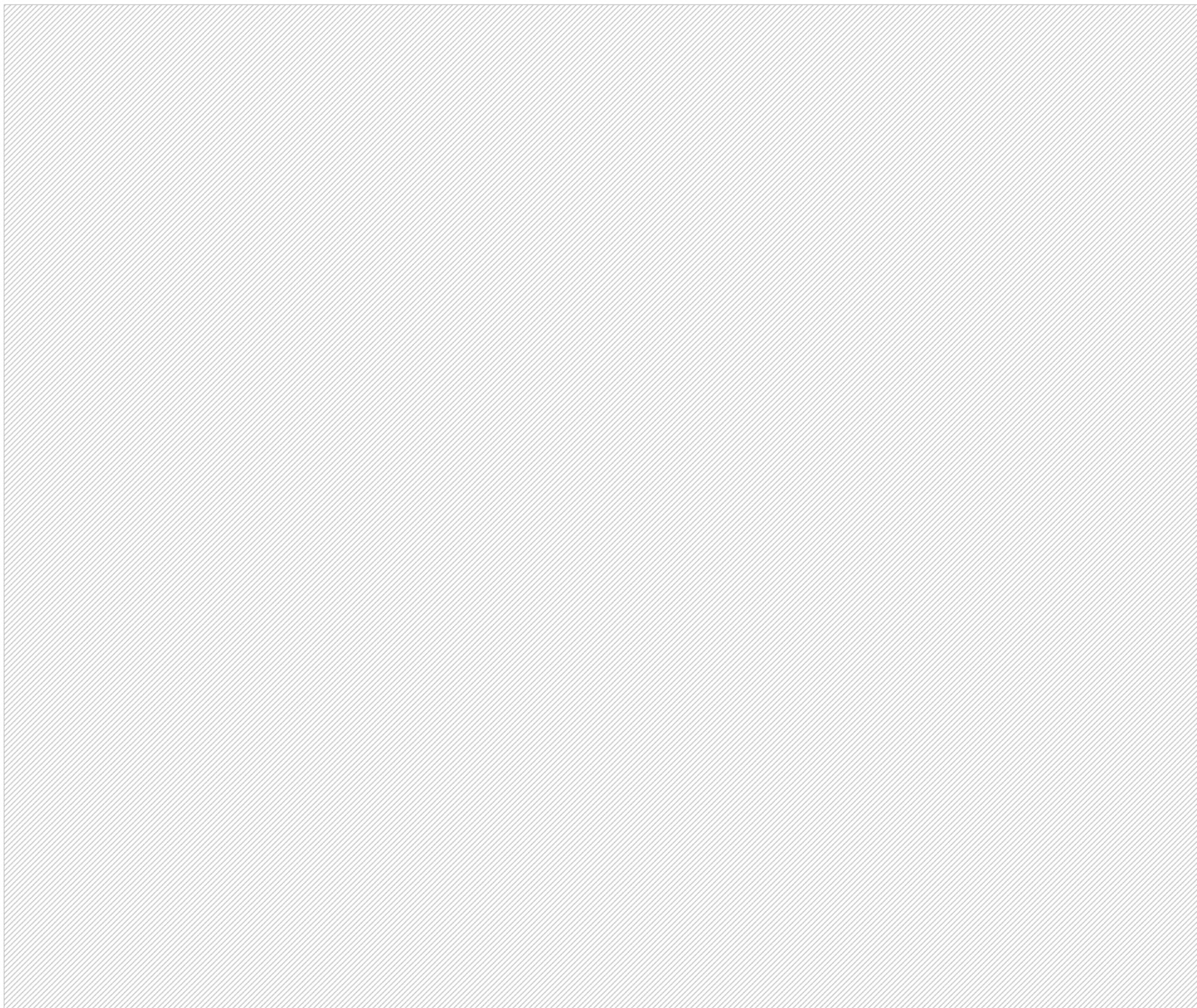


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Neesie Beal, following in her mother's footsteps in making space history, will be making her own history in simulated space at the Challenger Learning Center.

a mission to Mars. While she admits having "monkeyed around" as a child visiting the Brooks space primate menagerie, her second 'tour of duty' here is devoted to fulfilling her dream of being a teacher-astronaut, albeit in simulated space.

"I'm going to Mars this time," she said triumphantly.





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A 'Grab-N-Go' Breakfast will be offered for the weekends. The Saturday menu will be a hard boiled egg, cereal, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit, bagel, butter and jelly and can be picked up on Friday evening. Sunday's 'Grab-N-Go' menu will be a sausage, cheese and egg biscuit, cereal, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit, bagel, butter and jelly, and will be avail-

able on Saturday.

The Barber Shop and Cleaners have relocated to Sidney's. Hours of operation for the cleaners are weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on the weekends. The Barber Shop is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed Sundays.

Transportation will provide bus service from Brooks City-Base to Lackland every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This service is provided for active duty military and DoD personnel only — no dependents. The pick-up and drop-off point is located at Sidney's.

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Airmen's Council volunteers lend helping hand to base, community

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They are not afraid to get their hands dirty, nor repelled by the challenge of taking on not-so-glamorous jobs. Despite working in relative obscurity, members of the Brooks Airmen's Council Volunteer Committee have learned firsthand the real meaning of the old saying "it is better to give than receive."

Since the committee's creation earlier this year, Brooks Airmen volunteers have cast a wide net over the base and city in search of projects for which they've provided a helping hand.

"We've tried to revamp the volunteer program to provide work projects for Airmen, to get them involved in the community," said Senior Airman Raymond Ruiz, Brooks Airmen's Council Volunteer Committee chairman.

Airman Ruiz has leveraged his considerable communications skills as a 311th Communications Squadron member to find worthy projects that need help. "For the first time, we've adopted a highway," Airman Ruiz said, referring to the Texas Department of Transportation's "Adopt-A-Highway" program.

On Aug. 13, more than a dozen Brooks volunteers scoured a two-mile stretch along Southeast Military Drive picking up trash and debris as part of the group's commitment to the "Adopt-A-Highway" program.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Two members of the Airmen's Council Volunteer Committee pick up trash on Southeast Military Drive in an Adopt-A-Highway effort.

"We contracted with TxDOT for two years," the committee chairman said about their responsibility to keep their section of the roadway free of litter. The group adopted Southeast Military Drive east of IH-37 South to Southcross Boulevard. They plan to pick up trash there every two months.

"We've also begun sponsoring the Salvation Army's Hope Center for battered women," Airman Ruiz said, explaining that committee volunteers help by handing out meals there.

The group has participated in a recent Race for the Cure 5K run for cancer research sponsored by a local college and the City of San Antonio's annual Basura Bash clean up of the San Antonio River. They also have

actively supported a variety of volunteer activities at Brooks.

"We're looking for more Airmen volunteers to help us," said Airman Ruiz, a 21-year-old native of Rincon, Puerto Rico and three-year Air Force veteran. Before becoming committee chairman, he had been a volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter.

"We want to get more Airmen involved," he said. He said Airmen interested in becoming volunteer committee members can do so by contacting Senior Airman Sandra Wester, Brooks Airmen's Council president, or Senior Airman Jonathan Lanning, council vice president. Both are assigned to the 68th Information Operations Squadron and can be reached at 536-3060.

NASA Partnership

Continued from page 1

sion scenario to be conducted for young professionals in the Challenger Learning Center. This 'hands-on' learning experience will leverage the space station and mission control simulators of the CLC to provide a rich, inspiring and contextually relevant setting in which the project teams will actually execute the projects they plan," Dr. Grant said. He'll be overseeing the project on a base where he once served as an Air Force officer assigned to the Aerospace Medical Division from 1983-1987.

Herb Klein, President of the Brooks Aerospace Foundation and Chief Operating Officer of the Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio, said the UTSA project is a result of that university's on-going relationship with the CLC.

"This would not have happened if we had not had a relationship in place," he said.

Since 2001, UTSA graduate students in the technology management program have flown CLC missions to fulfill team building course objectives. More importantly, UTSA's study proposal was significantly strengthened by having leveraged CLC capabilities and staff expertise.

Phase 1 of the six-month study, that began in July, involves developing a project 'proof of concept.' This pro-

cess will feature eight five-person project teams who will conduct simulated biomedical and life support test experiments here in December.

"Our key objectives are to develop and test an innovative approach to project management training that will strongly emphasize the importance of recognition of expertise, knowledge sharing and appropriate utilization of information on project teams, and the development of team interaction methodologies that will improve the quality of project decisions," Dr. Grant said.

Team participants in this phase 1 study will include 20 graduate students, enrolled in a masters of science degree class on emerging technologies, and 20 undergraduate students enrolled in upper-level engineering classes.

The UTSA-CLC collaboration is one of several phase 1 projects that NASA has funded. Only four out of 10 phase 1 projects that are now underway will be selected for additional NASA funding to continue phase 2 studies.

"In phase 2, we plan to develop a project management training program for middle school students, leveraging the model developed in phase 1, but focusing more directly on basic project management techniques," Dr. Grant said.



COL. TOM TRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

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Chief Mauldin Retires

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"It was a difficult decision in some ways because becoming a command chief removes you more from the one-on-one interaction, and I loved that as a chief," she said. "But at the same time, it gives you the ability to influence policy, and that affects more than just the one-on-one relationships, it affects units, wings, numbered Air Forces and major commands and ultimately the entire Air Force. That's what reminds me of the great responsibility I have to the men and women of the Air Force."

In looking back on her time in AFMC, the chief said she's seen pride grow and develop and people are standing a little taller and feeling great when you talk to them about how much they mean to the Air Force.

"I think people may have known that before, but they were not told enough — their knowing how valued they are is very important," she said. "Nobody else can do what this command does. The expertise and talent that's here is incredible."

"I'm proud of what AFMC people do and that we're so strong in supporting the warfighter in every aspect. When I was in USAFE I didn't realize then, but I do now, that they and a lot of other combat commands cannot do their jobs without AFMC giving them the tools, weapons, systems and software they need to do it. I'm

very proud to be part of the command that helps make USAFE, Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command so good at what they do."

And as the chief readies herself for the next chapter of her life, she offered some advice for the Air Force's future leaders.

"Young men and women today are much savvier about how to do things, how to get along and how the world works," Chief Mauldin said. "My advice is to take that knowledge and ability and continue to grow and make it work."

"When I visited bases I was constantly amazed at how smart our men and women are. It's a good thing I didn't have to compete against them for promotion or I'd never have gotten promoted. The future is theirs; they just have to work to go get it. My advice is to do your best at every job you have, every day, and don't worry about EPRs and decorations. The good opportunities and people will come to you."

And as the dust settles on Chief Mauldin's career, her hopes are people will remember her as someone who truly cared about them, who put their needs before her own and who wanted to see them be successful.

"I couldn't be more proud to retire out of AFMC because I truly believe the rest of the Air Force does ride on the back of this command," she said.

HALES and FAREWELLS

The Child Development Center would like to congratulate Yolanda Phillips on her promotion and wish her good luck and farewell. Ms. Phillips was a room leader for the past several years and has left to work in the Youth Center as the School Age Coordinator.

Editor's Note: Hales and Farewells will be a regular feature in Discovery. If someone is leaving or joining your department and you would like to include them in the paper, please send an email to discovery@brooks.af.mil.



Military training leaders help shape careers of Airmen



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Tech. Sgt. M.J. Bell addresses a group of incoming USAFSAM students. Sergeant Bell is one of three military training leaders who help prepare young Airmen for their careers in the Air Force.

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery Editor

Fifteen new students stepped off the bus at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's dorm recently. They were greeted by the classically loud and insistent barking of Tech. Sgt. M.J. Bell, military training leader. As she shouted instructions, many of the students may have realized that their leisurely ride from Lackland Air Force Base to Brooks wasn't long enough.

The incoming Airmen, straight out of basic training, will spend three months at USAFSAM studying in the health apprentice program, one of the more difficult career programs in the Air Force.

But academics won't be the students' only concern. While they are not in school, their military progress will be closely monitored by Sergeant Bell, Tech. Sgt. Michael Timko or Staff Sgt. Jason McCormack – the only three military training leaders in the entire command.

The military training leader, or MTL, has the responsibility of teaching military customs and codices, enforcing standards, handling disciplinary actions and giving military assignments. "We give the students the tools to be professional airmen in all aspects," Sergeant McCormack said.

The students have various military responsibilities during their three-month stay at Brooks, including physical training, dorm detail, reveille and retreat, drill and ceremonies and inspections, all supervised by the MTLs. They abide by a phase chart that gives them direction on what they can do and can't do while they are here.

"The first 28 days they are in Phase 1, which is fairly restrictive," Sergeant McCormack said. "For example, they can't leave the base except on Saturday and Sunday. They must always stay in uniform except when in the dorm and after duty hours."

"The idea is to gradually give them privileges to guide them into the military lifestyle so that when they get to their first duty station they can hit the ground running and be ready to go to work," Sergeant Bell added.

The MTLs treat the students' time at USAFSAM as a "probation period." They give them the opportunity to prove they can be reliable. Students who demonstrate the ability to

take charge become student leaders and those who prove themselves reliable receive additional responsibilities.

"We aren't recruiters. We don't have to sell them a pitch," said Sergeant Timko, the team's senior MTL. "They are already here and they all have different reasons for being here. We just try to emphasize what the Air Force has to offer and that the Air Force will give back to them what they put into it."

Because USAFSAM is a unique tech school, with 50-70 students compared to other schools with 10 times as many, the trio of MTLs at Brooks has the opportunity to get to know the students on a one-on-one basis and develop lasting relationships with them.

"I love working with the students on a day-to-day basis," Sergeant Bell said. "I love being able to relate to them what the Air Force is all about and what it has to offer. And it takes just one person to call or send an email saying 'thank you' to make it all worth it."

Those in the direct line of Sergeant Bell's vocal fire on day one might raise an eyebrow at the thought of sending a future thank you card. But the threesome agrees that discipline is important in the growth of the young Airmen and helps in the goal of reinforcing the core values.

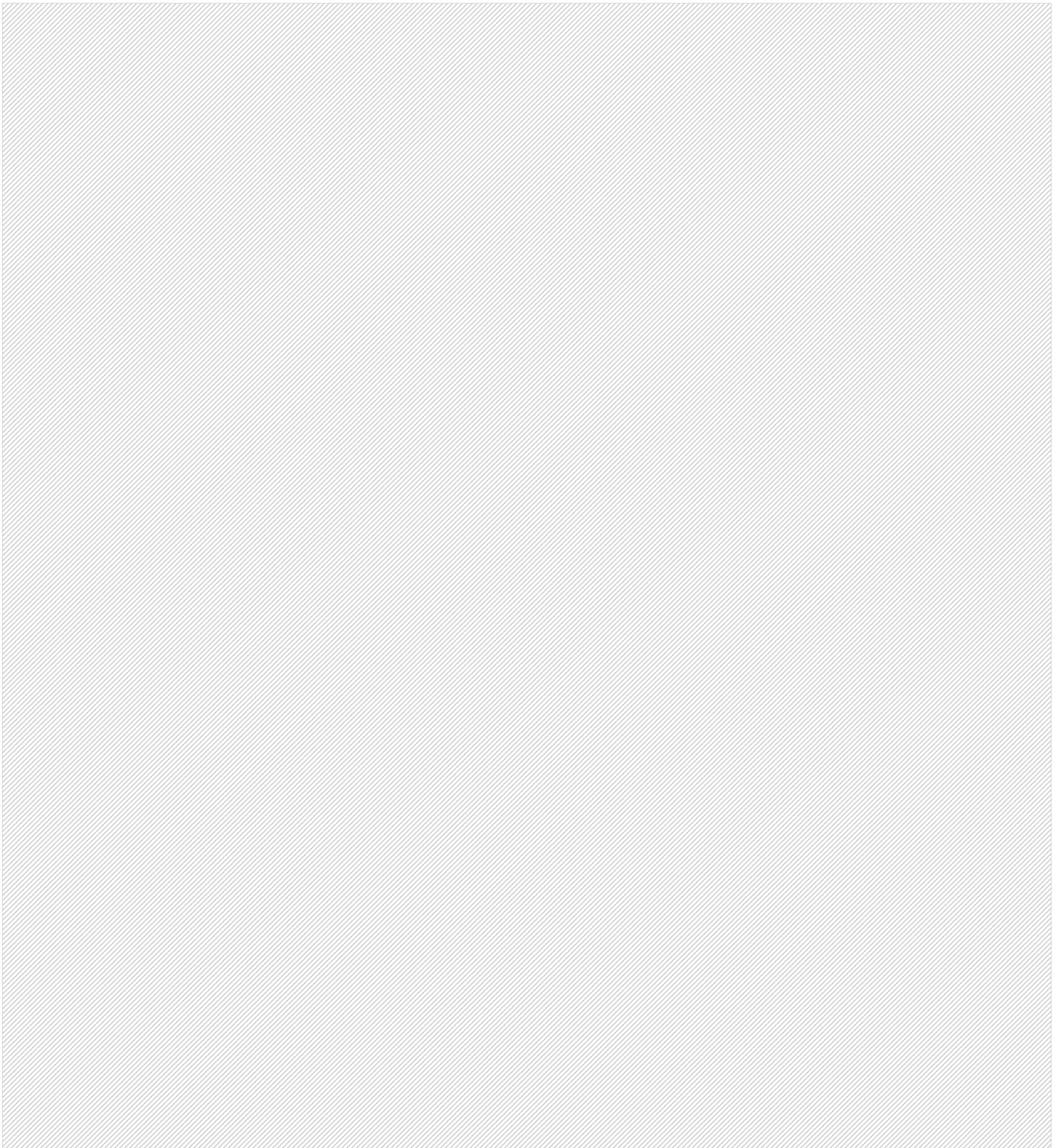
"The students are in basic training for six weeks in a very strict atmosphere. To suddenly turn them loose would be a mistake," Sergeant McCormack said.

The MTLs also agree that they all have different styles of leadership and they each bring something different to the position. They don't always agree on how to handle a situation, but they have learned to work together as a team and their different skills and personality traits complement each other.

They readily admit that the goal of teaching "self-proficiency and self reliance" unites them in purpose.

"I live and breathe the military," Sergeant Timko said. "If you have a love and a passion for the Air Force, that will carry over to how you teach and promote what the Air Force is all about."

The young USAFSAM students can rest easy knowing that their future Air Force careers are being shaped by three military leaders with a passion for their jobs and a love of the military.





AFRL scientist claims two famous relatives

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor's note: This feature is the 13th in a continuing series showcasing members of the Brooks community who are related to famous people)

Ads

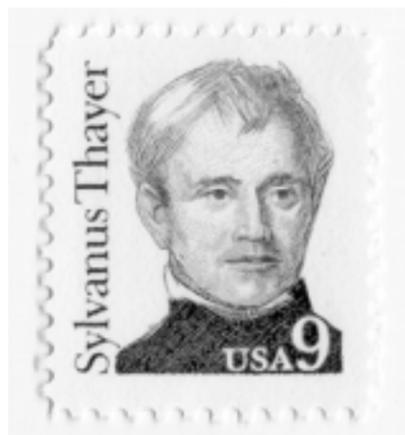
He can trace his family ties to Great Britain nearly two centuries before our nation was founded, but his bloodline is as American as baseball, hot dogs and apple pie. Despite a pedigree that includes "The Father of West Point" and the first governor of Texas, Dr. Jay Miller is an easy-going soul who prefers basking in the limelight of an Internet-based search for long-lost relatives.

"I found my half-brother Ken Dixon after I posted a message on a geneology website," said Dr. Miller about a sibling he did not know about, an offspring from his late mother's first marriage. "I have met him and we look alike," said Dr. Miller, the Air Force Research Laboratory's senior research physiologist in the Fatigue Countermeasures Branch.

He also found a more intriguing relation through his on-line geneological searches that were inspired by his father's interest in finding new branches of the family tree. "I found Julius Thayer who works for the National Institute on Aging. He is an African-American."

Ken Dixon, Julius Thayer and Dr. Miller are descendants of American patriot Royal Omstead Thayer who is directly related to the Thayer clan's most famous member — Sylvanus Thayer, a renowned engineer and educational reformer whose contributions to the U.S. Military Academy and military history has made him an American legend.

"Sylvanus Thayer never married, but he had brothers," Dr. Miller says, noting that his ancestor's siblings produced many children. Royal O. Thayer had eight chil-



In 1985, the U.S. Postal Service honored Sylvanus Thayer with this definitive stamp, part of the 'Great Americans' series.

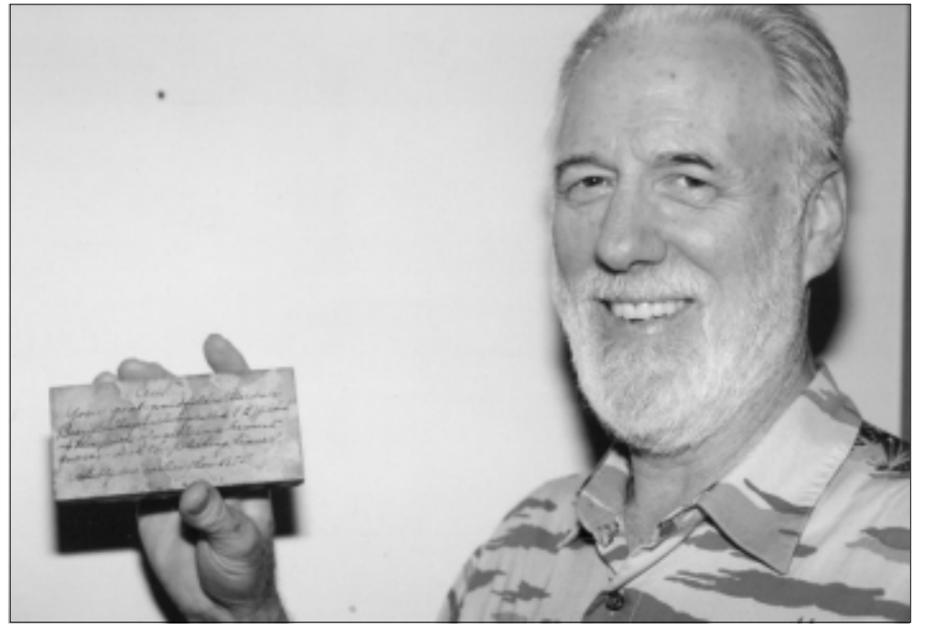


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Dr. Jay Miller holds a Thayer family heirloom, a piece of marble from the Vermont quarry that his great, great grandfather Gardner Brazillar Thayer polished sometime before 1875.

dren. "I'm a sixth cousin, five times removed," he said about his paternal relation to Sylvanus Thayer who was born on June 9, 1785 in Braintree, Mass.

After graduating from Dartmouth College, Thayer continued his interest in engineering at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he graduated in 1808. Thayer established a reputation as a military leader and planner in the War of 1812.

An acadamiian and scholar, Thayer seized an opportunity to contribute to the development of America's future military leaders. President James Madison, distressed by American leadership failures during the War of 1812, granted Thayer's request to study military school systems, Napoleonic battlefields and fortifications in Great Britain, France, Austria and Russia. His mission there produced invaluable military data, including countless maps and books that were donated to the West Point library.

Thayer served as Superintendent of West Point from 1817 to 1833. His educational reforms there developed West Point into America's first engineering school. His educational innovations ranged from new methods of instruction, such as smaller classes and self-paced study, to new admission standards and the creation of a system that tested academic proficiency and student progress. Thayer also created the honor system there, which served as a model for the U.S. Naval Academy and much later the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He was proclaimed "Father of West Point," a title that he retained after retiring in 1863 as a brigadier general. He died on Sept. 7, 1872 at his birthplace and was buried at the West Point cemetery.

Thayer's enduring legacy to education extends beyond his West Point contributions. His educational reforms produced America's best engineers, many of whom contributed to western settlement. These West Point-trained engineers built roads, bridges, railroads, canals, harbors and defensive fortifications during the pre-Civil War era of western expansion.

His technology advocacy posthumously earned Thayer the title of "Father of Technology in the United States." It was bestowed upon him in 1965 when he was elected to New York University's Hall of Fame for Great Americans. Twenty years later, the U.S. Postal Service recognized Thayer's contributions to American history with a postage stamp that was part of USPS's "Great Americans" series.

"In the 1980s, I discovered the Henderson-connection," said Dr. Miller of his maternal relation to James Pinckney Henderson, who was the first governor of Texas. "My mother's maiden name was Henderson. Her parents immigrated from Scotland to North Carolina."

The irony of this Texas icon's birth in North Carolina isn't lost on the Miller clan, for he was born in the same year that Sylvanus Thayer graduated from West Point. Like Davy Crockett, Henderson went to Texas in 1836 to fight in the Revolution for Independence. Like Sylvanus Thayer, he attained the rank of brigadier general. Before becoming Texas governor in 1846, Henderson served under Republic of Texas President Sam Houston as Attorney General and Secretary of State. He later fought in the Mexican War and served in the U.S. Senate. He died in Washington, D.C. on June 4, 1858.



Former G-force research study subject returns to Brooks to reminisce

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

People come to the Brooks Air Park to gaze at the F-100 standing there. Some imagine what it might have been like to fly in the now-retired fighter. James "Bucky" Geer stood at the base of the plane recently and knew what it felt like because he had flown in it. Many times. And, amazingly enough, in this specific plane.

Mr. Geer was an experimental surgical technician with the Air Force Research Laboratory from 1966 to 1970. Working with Dr. George Ansteadt, the buck sergeant (a grade that doesn't exist now; comparable to today's senior airman) helped Dr.



Courtesy Photo
Buck Sgt. James Geer stands by the F-100 in 1970.

Ansteadt's team develop the world's first corneal transplant. His team provided mechanical ventricular assistance, or heart pumps, for the famous Dr. Denton Cooley in Houston, as well. In 1968 Dr. Cooley performed the first successful heart transplant in the United States, and in 1969 he implanted the first totally artificial heart in a human.

"The pump was first tried out on calves and dogs," Mr. Geer said. "When that worked, Dr. Cooley used it in humans."

Sergeant Geer's team also developed the first heartworm medicine for dogs at Brooks.

According to Mr. Geer, it was a great time to be stationed at Brooks.

"Brooks was the 'Cadillac' place to be," he said. "I lived in one of the barracks that are still standing. We young airmen had everything we needed: a warm bed, three squares and a whole base full of equally young flight nurses. What more could you ask for?"

Though satisfying, his duty at Brooks Air Force Base in the 1960s didn't get him into that F-100. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration did. In 1968, he volunteered for the Apollo program and was accepted as part of a 26-member team.

They were studying high G-force and negative G-force environments and experimental medicines to combat them.

"We used the centrifuge and orbital simulator at Houston," he said. "But we needed to experience real weightlessness and we had to go airborne to do that."

Beginning as early as 1955 at Randolph AFB, Dr. Siegfried Gerathwohl of the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks had begun a series of weightlessness flights to explore microgravity's physiological and psychological effects. Sergeant Geer flew in similar weekly flights in one of several F-100s, one of which is now at Brooks Park. The flights, which took off and landed from Kelly AFB, were not without adventure.

"Once, while preparing to take off," Mr. Geer said, "one of the techs accidentally looped my harness around the ejection seat handle. When the plane started to taxi, red lights flashed, signifying the hatch was about to blow. If it had, I would have gone right out through the canopy! The pilot stopped the plane and we had to have workers take the whole canopy panel off so they could disarm the ejection seat."

His work with NASA ended in 1970, when he separated from the Air Force and returned to civilian life. He became a market representative for Abbott Laboratories and retired from Abbott after more than 26 years as senior territory manager and academic specialist.

"My work with the medical



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

James "Bucky" Geer recently returned to Brooks City-Base and stood by the F-100 at Brooks Air Park. Mr. Geer flew in the aircraft as a G-force research study subject. Mr. Geer provided the inset photo, a picture of the plane taken in 1968.

field helped get me hired at Abbott," he said. "So the years at Brooks definitely came in handy."

Mr. Geer now lives in Bedford, Texas, near Fort Worth. His family has owned a 50-acre farm nearby since the Civil War. His sister and her family live in San Antonio, not far from Brooks, so on a whim he decided to stop in and visit his old stomping grounds. It had been 34 years since he'd set foot on Brooks soil, but he recognized it right away.

"Lots of things have changed," he said, "but it's still the same old place. And it felt great to stop by and see the plane that carried me aloft so many times. How many people get the chance to relive

old memories so vividly?"

"Also," he added, "if Brooks City-Base ever decides to dispose of the F-100, please let me know. It would look great at the entrance to our farm."



Courtesy Photo
JAMES "BUCKY" GEER



Base library offers something for everyone

By Kendahl Johnson
Discovery Editor

From the Brooks Club to the golf course to Sydney's, the 311th Services Division makes an effort to support the personnel who live and work at Brooks City-Base. Perhaps the Division's best-kept secret is the Base Library, which prides itself on being one of the most customer-friendly environments at Brooks.

"We make an effort to be flexible to the needs of the customer," librarian Joanna Hansen said. "Without the customer, we wouldn't exist."

For starters, Ms. Hansen gives library patrons more freedom than what they might find in a public library.

"We aren't strict; I don't like a lot of rules," Ms. Hansen said. "For example, we allow food and drink in the library. I don't want someone to have to make the choice between going to lunch and going to the library. Why not do both?"

Ms. Hansen said that her staff works hard to get to know the patrons and their interests. That way, they can recommend books similar to the likes of the reader. "I strongly encourage staff interaction," she said.

And if the library doesn't carry a specific book, the staff goes out of its way to get it through an excellent interlibrary loan program. "We can't carry everything, but if you want it, we'll get it."

The library carries the major periodicals and several major newspapers, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. They also have seven computers connected to the



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Library patron Shirley Keaton (left) checks out a book at the Base Library from Beatrice Elizalde.

Internet and have 13 databases available for research.

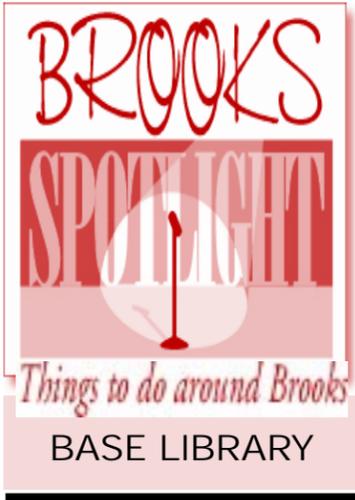
They have a large collection of language learning tapes and CDs and a strong reference section. They also carry all the items on the Chief of Staff pro-

"We are like a public library, but we support the mission," Ms. Hansen said. "If there are mission essential materials needed by an organization to do its job, we make an effort to get it with our own funds."

Due to budget constraints, the base library doesn't carry movies on DVD. They do, however, have a large selection of books on tape and CD. They also make an effort to have all the books on the New York bestseller lists. And even those just learning to read can take advantage of the base library.

"We get a lot of compliments on our children's area," Ms. Hansen said. In addition to the large selection of kid's books, the area recently added a computer dedicated to running children's software.

The library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bring your lunch and check out the latest.



professional reading list, as well as Air War College materials and materials to support CLEP and DANTES testing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Col. Tom Travis' promotion ceremony

Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing Commander, has been selected to advance to the rank of brigadier general. The pin-on ceremony will be held Sept. 3 at 9 a.m. at Hanger Nine. The ceremony will be officiated by Gen. Greg Martin, the AFMC commander.

Duo selected to compete in Air Force golf finals

Lt. Col Alan J. Pineault, 311 HSW, and Chief Master Sgt. Barbara A. Opel, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, have been selected to attend the 2004 All-Air Force Golf Championships, September 12-18, 2004, at the United States Air Force Academy, Colo.

The top six men and the top three women of this Air Force championship will advance to represent the Air Force at the 2004 Armed Forces Golf Championships, Sept. 19-25 at Fort Carson, Colo.

Information briefing for investigators

An annual briefing is required by Federal Regulation for all individuals who anticipate involving human subjects, or reviewing existing information records for investigative purposes, as a part of their official duties at Brooks.

Five briefings are scheduled to be held in Bldg. 180, the Main Auditorium - Sept. 2 and Sept. 16 at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Sept. 28 at 9 a.m.

Military, civilians and contractors are required to attend one of these sessions if you desire to conduct, fund or collaborate in research at Brooks, or with any other government or civilian institution. Sign-in is required.

Any questions regarding these briefings may be directed to Jane Marquardt, IRB Administrator, at 536-4113, or Col. Harry Marden, IRB chair, at 536-4466

Family Night at Brooks Club temporarily suspended

Family Night at the Brooks Club has been temporarily suspended until October due to the large volume of special functions during September. Beginning again in October, every Tuesday you may bring the entire family to the Brooks Club Family Night starting at 4:30 p.m. Club members will pay \$5.50 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6-10 years and children. The cost for non-members is \$7.50 for adults, and \$3 for children ages 6-10 years. Children five years and under are free. October's Family Night Menu:

- Oct. 5th - Oriental Buffet
- Oct. 12th - Italian Buffet
- Oct. 19th - BBQ Buffet
- Oct. 26th - Mexican Buffet

Brooks to host acquisition town hall meeting

Brooks is hosting an acquisition town hall meeting on Wed., Sept. 1 in the auditorium of building 180 for all Brooks personnel assigned to acquisition-coded

positions. The first session is for supervisors and will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. All currently assigned acquisition personnel are invited to the afternoon session from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mr. Gary Blum, SAF/AQ, will brief the new ACQ Now Continuous Learning segment.

All personnel occupying coded positions are required to complete 80 Continuous Learning training points every two years. This helps acquisition personnel stay current in today's competitive professional environment.

Continuous learning requirements and individual documentation of completed requirements may be accessed at www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_work/career_training/cl.html. Don't miss your opportunity to learn more about ACQ Now. Contact Lavern Kistner at 536-6964 for more information.

AF seeks volunteers to support inauguration

The Air Force is seeking high-caliber individuals to support the 55th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 15 to Jan. 24.

Those selected will perform unit-funded temporary duty in Washington D.C. for the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. The sending unit will pay for all TDY expenses. Additionally, ANG/AFRES volunteers must secure their own funding and MANDAYS.

To volunteer for these rewarding and high-visibility positions may request an application package by sending an email to 11wgcci@bolling.af.mil.

Air Force emphasizes voting assistance

With the general election date of Nov. 2 rapidly approaching, the Air Force has added another tool to its voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate. Airmen Votes is the name of a new webpage designed to give Airmen and their family members all the information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

Military members that submit a Federal Post Card Application, the one-half page form used for voter registration and absentee ballot request, should keep the following in mind:

Include current mailing address on the form, sign and date and fulfill your state's witness or notary requirements, if required. State by state instructions for completing the Form are available on the Airmen Votes website. Submit the form in a timely manner - no later than September 2004.

Any military member requiring voting assistance can contact your unit voting assistance counselor or call Major Rob O'Connor 536-3849, or leave a message on the Brooks City-Base Voting Hotline at 536-2666.

Civilian employees at Brooks City-Base can obtain local election and voter registration information by going to www.fvap.gov.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



STEPHEN GREMILLION

BARBARA JORDAN:
American Hero
by Mary Beth Rogers

CRADLE OF DEATH
by John Glatt

BEATRICE ELIZALDE

SAM'S LETTER TO JENNIFER
by James Patterson

OUTLANDER series
by Diane Gabaldon

JOANN HANSEN

THE LAWS OF MONEY, LESSONS OF LIFE
by Suze Orman

AUTOMATIC MILLIONAIRE
by David Bach

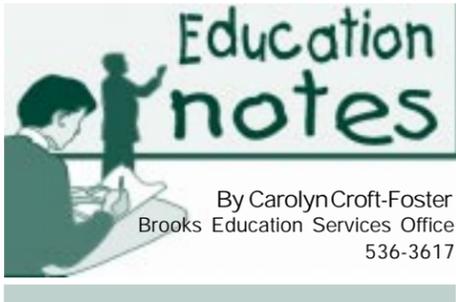
REBECCA ESTRADA

HERALDS OF VALDEMAR series
by Mercedes Lackey

DRAGON RIDERS OF PERN series
by Anne McCaffrey

New Adult Books on CD:

ANGELS & DEMONS by Dan Brown
THE BOURNE LEGACY by Eric Van Lustbader
ABOVE AND BEYOND by Sandra Brown
GLORIOUS APPEARING by Tim LaHaye
FULL BLAST by Janet Evanovich
KILL THE MESSENGER by Tami Hoag
M IS FOR MALICE by Sue Grafton
PLAN OF ATTACK by Dale Brown



By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

ACSC Nonresident Seminar

The Education and Training Center is now seeking eligible candidates (major, major-selectees, GS-11, and above) for the ACSC Nonresident Seminar Program. Nonresident seminars meet for each week for 11 months, from August 2004 until June 2005. The course grants Phase 1 Joint PME credit, Intermediate Service School credit, up to 27 semester hours of graduate course work, and Reserve Points as determined by Air Force Personnel Center. Seminars need eight enrollments per site. To register, visit Education Services in Bldg. 558 to complete an ACSC Application or call 536-3618 for more information.

Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from \$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985 and elected to participate in the MGIB. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP convertees. For more information, call 536-3618.

AWC Nonresident Seminar

Recruiting for the Academic Year 2005 Air War College Nonresident Seminar Program is underway. Seminar meetings will be held weekly starting in early August and run until mid-June 2005. The AWC Nonresident Studies Seminar Program is open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve colonels, lieutenant colonels and lieutenant colonel-selectees (or their equivalents) of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces and civilian employees (GS/GM-13 or above). Students with term credit from other editions may also enroll and should check with an AWC faculty advisor for details.

For those students who cannot take advantage of the seminar program, the correspondence program is also available for enrollment. Correspondence students have six months to complete each term in the three-term core program with the required elective completed sometime during this 18-month period.

Applications are available at www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/ns/ns-enroll.htm. Bring a copy of the completed application to Bldg. 558. Call 536-3618 for more information.

Funding of CLEP exams at National Test Centers

DANTES is now providing up-front funding of the CLEP eCBT examination fee at identified National Test Centers. DANTES will fund the current \$50 test fee for eligible mili-

tary and civilian examinees on-campus. Examinees are responsible for paying the non-refundable, advance registration fee charged by the test center. In some cases, this registration fee, usually \$20, is reimbursable. Students may test only at schools identified as "Military Friendly" or "Open." San Antonio area schools include Northwest Vista, St. Mary's, San Antonio College, UTSA and others. Visit the website at www.collegeboard.com/clep for listings off all San Antonio schools and other areas. For more information, call 536-3617.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and CCAF. CCAF Students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to afvec.langley.af.mil and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

CCAF Fall Graduation Deadline

The deadline for nominations for Community College of the Air Force Fall 2004 graduation is Aug. 27. All nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell AFB, Ala., by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services at 536-3618 to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Students may register for correspondence courses at any time. Courses are available in business, public administra-

tion, criminal justice and other majors. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. For more information, visit the website at www.uiu.edu, stop by the Brooks office in Bldg. 558 or call 536-4033.

Discover Program On-Line

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

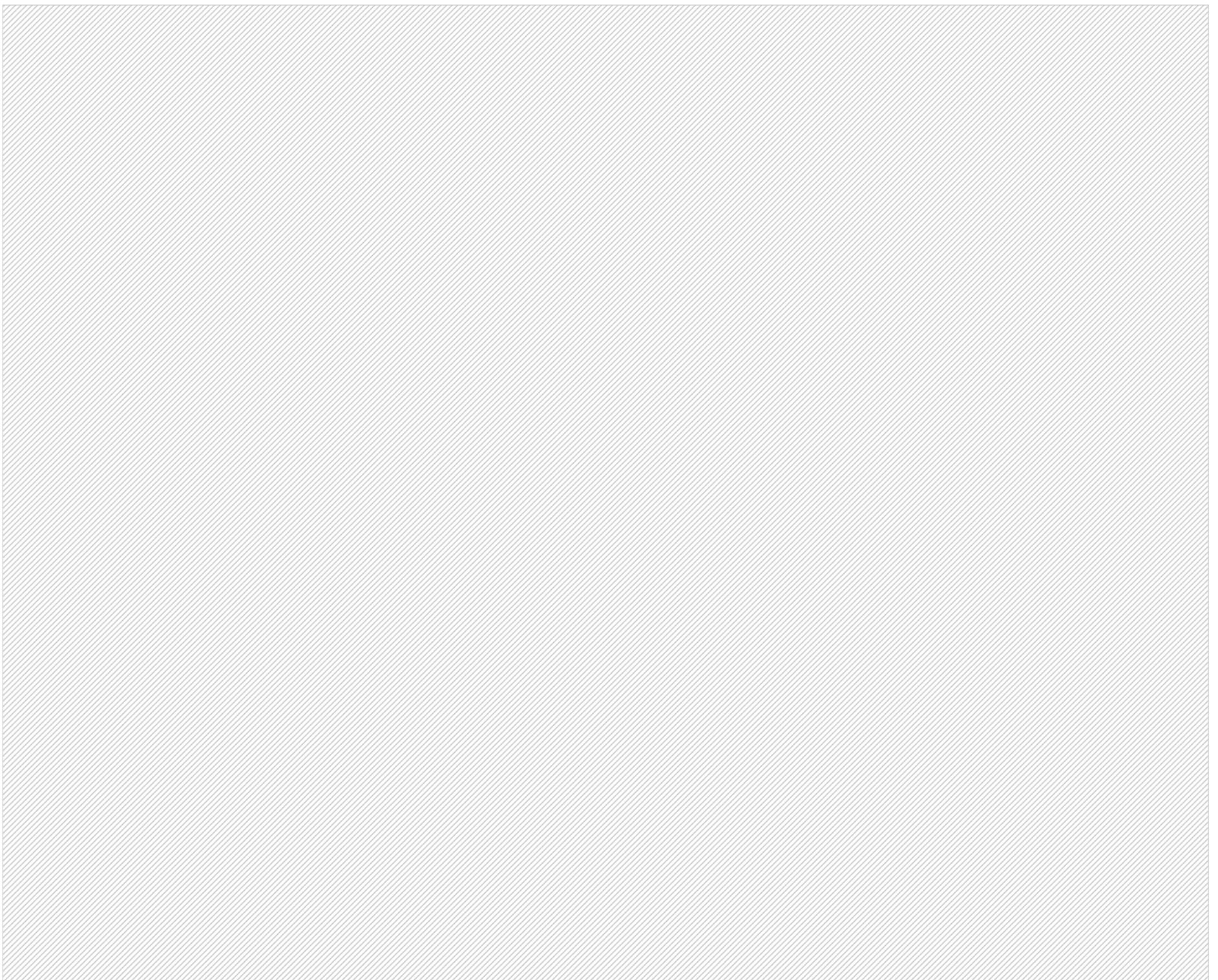
Palo Alto College On Base Registration

Registration is underway for the Fall Semester and for Fall Flex 1 and 2. On base classes will include computer literacy, American government, philosophy and speech. The ACCD representative will be at Brooks on Tuesdays to register students. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences.

Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. For more information or to schedule an appointment with Mr. Weathersby, call 536-3618.





Birthday Ball tickets now available

Tickets to the 2004 Air Force Birthday Ball for San Antonio are now on sale. This year's event begins at 6 p.m. with a social hour at the Gateway Club, Lackland Air Force Base, followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

The Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association and the 4334d Alamo wing are hosting the birthday celebration.

The 2004 theme, "Total Force Projecting Air and Space Power," was chosen to pay tribute to the entire Air Force Team — active duty, Guard, Reserve, cadet, civilian, contractor, family members, and volunteers — who keep the Air Force and nation moving forward.

Celebrating the Air Force birthday is an honored tradition, and one that the entire Air Force team should embrace, event organizers said. Retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Bob Gaylor is the featured guest speaker.

All service members are encouraged to attend and join in the celebration. In addition to the excitement associated with the ball, attendees will receive a free commemorative coin and organizers have booked a professional photographer to capture the moment for a nominal fee.

Ticket prices are \$30 per person and \$20 per person for staff sergeants and GS-9 employees and below. Dress is mess dress for officers, mess dress or semi-formal for enlisted and black tie formal for civilians.

For tickets or membership information, call 652-5844 or Marie Vanover at 652-2208.

Civilian Quarterly Award Winners

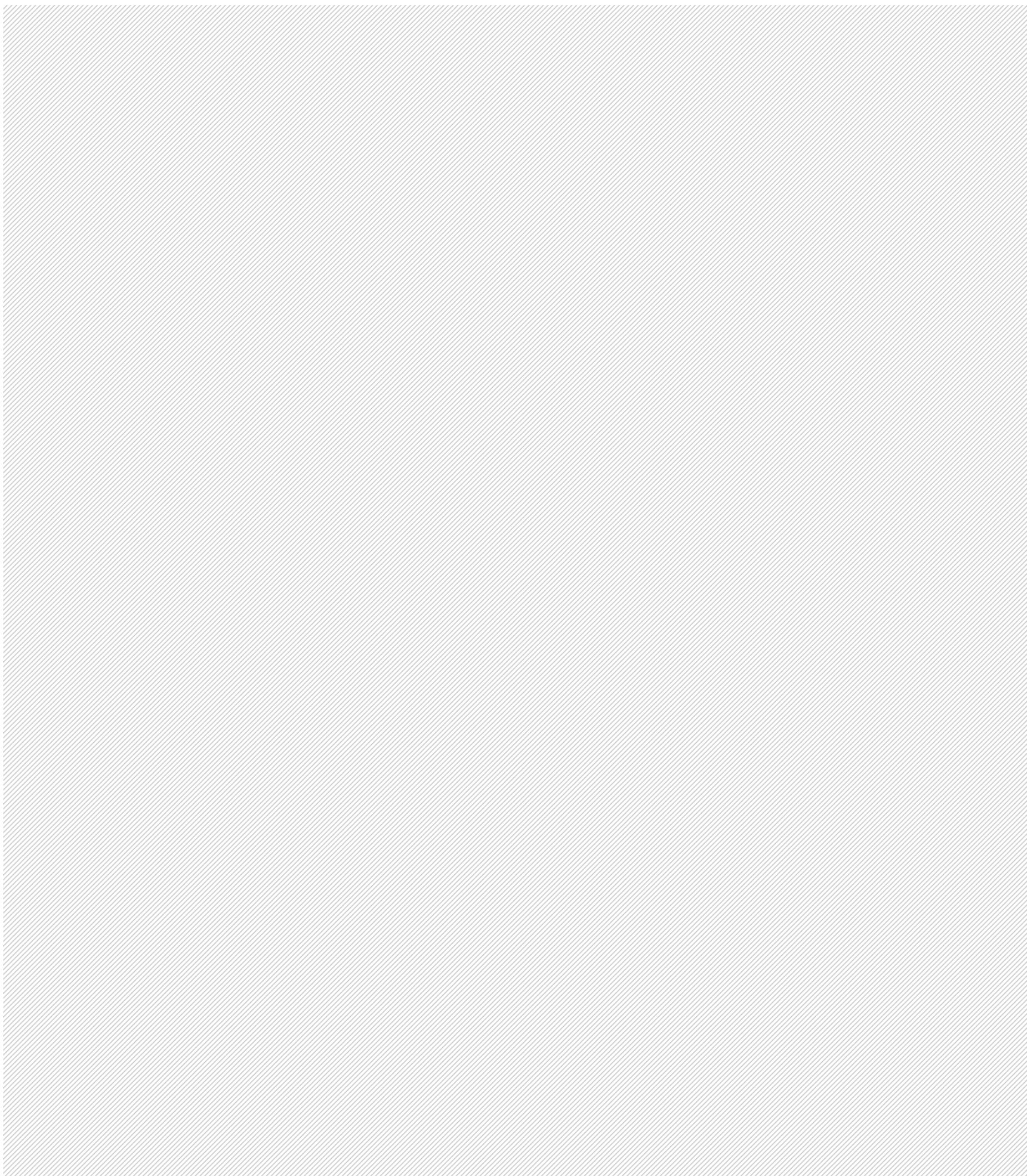


The Civilian Quarterly Awards were presented Aug. 12 at a ceremony at the Brooks Club. Col. Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing Commander, presented the awards. The winners were:

Nita White — GS 3 thru GS 5 (top left)
Trevor Harrison — NAF Technician (top right)
Leland Johnson — GS 12 and above (middle left)
Patricia Pate — NAF Manager (middle right)
James Jurek, Jr. — Student Aide (bottom left)

Not pictured:
Anita Price — GS 6 thru GS 8
Ann Salmen — GS 9 thru GS 11

Congratulations to all nominees and to this quarter's winners!





Feature



Man with a message

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

When Senior Master Sgt. Brian Danahey, 68th Information Operations Squadron superintendent, was notified of his selection for promotion to chief master sergeant, it was the culmination of a life of hard work, a blue-collar affirmation that good things happen to good people.

"I was the little welfare Portugee kid from the wrong side of the tracks," he said. "Nobody had any expectations that I'd be successful, let alone one of the top 1 percent of the enlisted ranks."

Here comes the message: "If I can do it, so can you," he said.

The journey began in Raynham, Mass., about 40 miles south of Boston. Although not born into abject poverty, money was scarce. He and his mother and two younger sisters lived with his grandparents in a house built in 1792. It was on a farm where "chores came first and sports came second," he said. "My grandparents used to tell us that 'love is all you need.' That was because we didn't have much else."

They did have food. They picked it themselves.

"It was a beautiful farm," Sergeant Danahey said. "We grew fruit and vegetables and raised cattle, sheep, chickens and hogs. We had our meals on the hoof."

The future chief sold corn and strawberries in a roadside booth. His family also grew and sold shrubbery to their neighbors.

"We dug them up, delivered them and even planted them if you wanted us to," he said. "It was hard work, but it was a great start to life. It gave me a work ethic I try to instill in my own children."

"I got picked on a lot in school," he said. "You know, the poor kid without new clothes or new shoes to wear. But being active in sports got me through."

He played fullback on his high school soccer team, center on the basketball team and pitched and played shortstop in baseball. His school baseball team went to the state regionals and his soccer team to the state finals.

Sergeant Danahey graduated from Bridgewater Regional High School in 1982. He actually enlisted in the Air Force before graduation, at age 17. He went to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in September 1982, then to electronic systems security assessment technical school at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. He picked the job at basic training.

"But I thought I'd done something really wrong when they put us on a bus and headed us out toward San Angelo," he said. "I'd never been outside Massachusetts before and I didn't know where I was going. I'd never even been to Boston until I went to the MEPS to take my physical."

But it clearly wasn't a mistake. It was a career field he soon came to love. His first assignment was here at Brooks with the 6906th Electronics Security Squadron in February 1983. He monitored phones for security lapses, much as Airmen in the 68th IOS do now.

"But we had no email," he said. "Our emphasis back then was telephones and

radio monitoring. And we were continually going TDY to do the mission."

In his first four years here, he went on a total of 683 TDY days. He went all over the continental United States and Central America, including Honduras and Panama.

"All cool places," he said. "I loved it." After his tour at Brooks, he became a tech school instructor, returning to Goodfellow and San Angelo for four years. It was while at Goodfellow that things, Air Force-wise, began to fall into place.

"I began to pay attention to the Air Force," he said. "The light bulb went off and decided to make the Air Force a career. I hit my groove there."

He became active in the NCO Council and volunteered in the local community. At work, he became the course supervisor as a staff sergeant when the current supervisor opted for an early release program. His next assignment was to Osan Air Base, South Korea, with the 6903rd Electronics Security Group.

"It was a difficult year at Osan," he said, "but life goes on. It was my first experience with the reality of what the Air Force does. We knew that jets from North Korea could be over Osan in three minutes, so we were constantly practicing for war. It added importance to the job."

Next came a tour to the Continental Electronics Security Division, now the 67th Security Operations Wing at Kelly AFB, where he was on the division and wing staffs.

"I became a paper pusher," he said, "but I learned more in four years about the intelligence field than I had in the previous eight. That tour turned me into a true intelligence asset."

In February 1996, he went to Vogelweh, just south of Ramstein AB, Germany. Before that tour, the largest office Sergeant Danahey had supervised had one or two people assigned. At Vogelweh, he was responsible for 35 people, and loved it.

"I found my niche," he said. "I fell in love with taking care of people."

He became the back-up first sergeant and stayed at Vogelweh for five and a half years, extending his tour so he could watch his son play quarterback for Kaiserslautern High School in his junior and senior years.

"K-Town always got stomped," he said, "but in his junior year they finally won the championship, beating Ramstein High School. There were 400-500 people in the stands. It was exciting."

He and his family returned to Brooks in 2001. He had been selected for senior and became the squadron superintendent. He



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart



DENAHAY



FULL NAME:

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Danahey

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Superintendent, 68th Information Operations Squadron

IN SIMPLE TERMS, WHAT DO I DO?:

Responsible to the Commander for successful mission completion and the welfare of 170 enlisted folks, along with their families

BIRTHDAY:

Last December was my 39th, and my wife's gift to me was authorization to make that my last official birthday

HOMETOWN:

Raynham, Mass.

FAMILY STATUS:

Married, with four adult children, ages 21, 20, 18 and 17.

PERSONAL MOTTO:

Be there for your folks 24/7. If you can't do that, get out

PET PEEVE:

Folks who don't agree with my motto above

INSPIRATIONS:

My Mom, Col. Fred Gortler III and Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Kenney, squadron commander and first sergeant at Vogelweh; without them, I wouldn't be where I am today

HOBBIES:

Anything to do with sports, floating in my pool after a long day

ULTIMATE GOAL:

This is the one that gets me in trouble with my wife. When I retire, as long as I have enough money to get a round of golf in per week, I will die a happy man

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Personally, raising four children who have great heads on their shoulders. Professionally, making Chief before I was 40 and senile

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:

What I value most is my relationship with my immediate family and my extended family, the men and women of the Mighty 68th

takes pride in having been both the youngest and highest ranking enlisted person in his squadron.

"I know what it's like to be an Airman on Brooks," he said.

Now as a chief master sergeant-select, he has his "fingers in everything."

"I get to know the Airmen in logistics, ops and everywhere in between," he said. "There are 170 enlisted folks, most with families, and I get to know them all. I love being in the Air Force and I love coming to work. And I tell them so."

The Airmen assigned to the 68th work in three shifts, so Sergeant Danahey commits to a long day at the office. The mid-shift gets off at 8:30 a.m. and the swing shift comes on at 4:30 p.m. He's there to talk to them all, no matter what time it is. His duty day usually begins about 5:30 a.m. Often, he returns home around 6:30 p.m.

"I try to overlap all the shifts," he said. "I try to give back double what the Air Force has given me."

In what off time he can find, Sergeant Danahey loves to play golf. It's a hobby he admittedly doesn't have a lot of time for, but works in a round whenever he can, sometimes with some of his Airmen. He figures he's played about 20 times in the last three years. Any conversation with Sergeant Danahey, however, seems to route itself back to his Airmen. And his message.

"The Airmen today are smarter, better qualified and more mature than when I first joined," he said. "But many come in for the wrong reasons. They enlist for the education and the benefits, which are great, but lead to conflict when mission needs outweigh their personal needs."

It's a far cry from 1982, he acknowledged.

"When I enlisted," he said, "we came in to be part of the military. Folks seemed more patriotic back then. I came in with an open career field. It wasn't just for a job. The airmen these days seem to ask 'What's in it for me?' a lot more than we did."

He has seen an increase in patriotism since 9/11, but overall, Airmen these days "come in for the college, for specialized training; then they get out and use the Air Force as a stepping stone," he said. "I tell them that it's not about the job, it's about the uniform. And I tell them that with hard work, they can be successful. If I can do it, so can they."

"With all that said, I love my Airmen," he said. "They give me energy, they wow me. I see a bright future for them and because of them, I think the future of the Air Force is looking good."

Message delivered.



Former handler never let 'Sam Space' make a monkey out of him

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The scars on his arms are still visible, nearly 40 years after a famous space primate sunk its teeth into something other than a banana. Nevertheless, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Kenneth Matthews displays them with pride, knowing his epidermal sacrifices contributed to Air Force space science research that eventually led to manned space flight.

Kenneth Matthews waxed nostalgic during his recent Han-

gar 9 visit with his family. It was there where memories flooded back when he examined a permanent exhibit showcasing "Sam," America's first primate in space. "I worked on the top floor of Building 125 as an animal (veterinary) technician," said the 70-year-old Air Force veteran who resides in Karnes City, Texas.

When Mr. Matthews joined the Air Force in 1957, he didn't know that he would eventually be involved in space science research as a member of the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation

Medicine's Veterinary Services Division. He described his division chief, Col. Harry Gorman, as a brilliant innovator. "He was a veterinary researcher who had developed the first hip pro-

thesis," Mr. Matthews said. He said television personality Arthur Godfrey was one of the earliest recipients of Col. Gorman's hip prothesis. His boss also modified research equipment for animals, while ensuring that everybody in the unit wore protective clothing to help prevent injuries.

"Rhesus monkeys have canines (teeth). We had to wear metal-lined long sleeve shirts when we handled them," Mr. Matthews said. "The monkeys could be aggressive, but Sam and Miss Sam were more docile," he remembers of the male and female primates whose names were an acronym for School of Aviation Medicine. Both monkeys made history as primate astronauts aboard America's first suborbital flights in 1959 and 1960, respectively. "I watched their flights (on TV). I was glad they came back alive," Mr. Matthews said.

He had been primarily responsible for the care and feeding of "Sam" and "Miss Sam," as well as other animals that included chimps, which were more difficult to handle. Recalling their training, Mr. Matthews said, "The rhesus monkeys were trained using a signalling system. If a

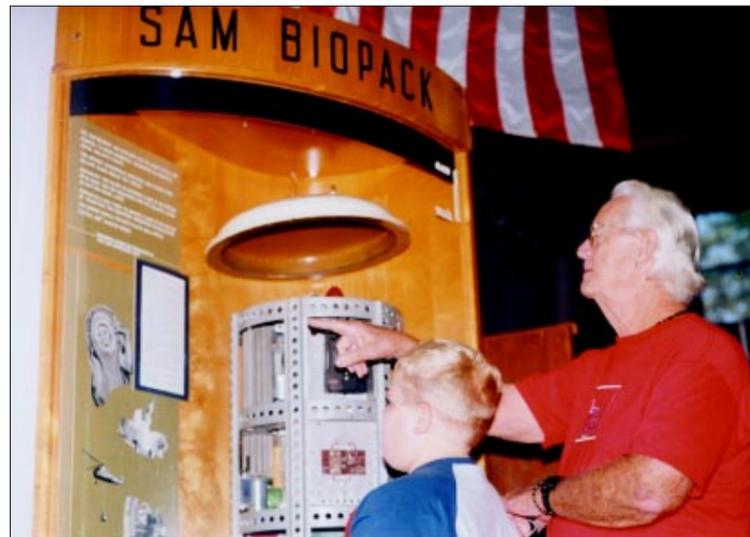


Photo by Rudy Purificato

ABOVE: Retired Air Force master sergeant Kenneth Matthews, who was the monkey handler for 'Sam' and 'Miss Sam', shows his nine-year-old grandson Zachary a Hanger 9 exhibit that chronicles the space monkey's contributions to America's space program.

light came on and they pulled the right lever, they were given raisins as a reward," he said, noting that the animals' daily rations was Purina monkey chow.

Sometimes the monkeys "monkeyed around" by learning to manipulate equipment designed for them. Mr. Matthews quickly learned not to let them get the best of him. That wasn't exactly the case with newcom-

ers to the unit housing the monkeys. "For some reason this one male chimp got a kick out of spitting water 30 feet," said Mr. Matthews about a behavioral quirk supported by a water lick valve in its cage. During a VIP tour, Mr. Matthews tried to shield a colonel from the offending chimp. "He opened the door ahead of me and the chimp hit him in the chest with water."



Photo by Rudy Purificato

BELOW: Kenneth Matthews, a former USAFSAM animal handler, examines a primate-carrying device called a couch that was developed by Air Force researchers.

Former Brooks dependent sews place in space history by fashioning monkey suit

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

For seamstress Edna Bitter, her small contribution to America's early space program was nothing more than "a little monkey business."

During NASA's inaugural year in 1958, Mrs. Bitter used common sense and innovative skill in fashioning part of a household device into a prototype space suit for America's first monkey astronaut. Not realizing then her homemaker's know-how was historically significant, the former Edna Thomas of Baltimore, Md., had become a sort of "Betsy Ross of monkey suits."

"Lou came home and asked me if I could make something for Sam. They were having some difficulty knowing how to keep the monkey restrained in the simulator (centrifuge)," said the 82-year-old wife of Dr. (Col.) Lou Bitter, who at the time was a U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine physiologist working in the radiobiology department.

Dr. Bitter was grappling with the problem of developing a proper outfit for a rhesus monkey called "Sam Space," named after the school that had trained it. "He wanted something that would restrain it and be heat-resistant. I whipped something up using my ironing board cover."

Called a Hoover apron, Mrs. Bitter sacrificed her silicon cover for the sake of science. All she had to go on was her husband's request that the suit accommodate a seven-pound monkey. She cut a hole for the head, panels for the front and back and ties on the sides.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Edna Bitter gazes at a photo of "Sam Space," the rhesus monkey that she sewed a prototype space suit for.

Her idea, what became the first space wardrobe, was later modified by USAFSAM scientists. More importantly, it 'suited' Sam. So much so, in fact, that the monkey breezed through his centrifuge training without causing a ruckus.

Mrs. Bitter's contribution was, to Sam's handlers, no small feat. Sam, and other monkey astronaut candidates that included the first female primate in space, "Miss Sam," had a reputation for being more physically active than two-year-old children.

"I remember the monkey had gotten loose under one of the barracks," Mrs. Bitter said. "Lou had to crawl on his belly with a hook to catch him."

Bitter's fashionable monkey outfit was part of a series of innovations made by Air Force scientists and engineers at USAFSAM.

"We made a couch for Sam out of fiberglass," said retired Brooks engineer-

ing technician Ewald Koegel, referring to a device that protected the monkey during its Dec. 4, 1959 space journey aboard a Little Joe rocket.

NASA launched Sam into the upper atmosphere from a space pad located on the Atlantic Ocean's Wallops Island, just off the Virginia-Maryland coast. The historic space flight was designed to determine whether suborbital flight affected the monkey's heart and central nervous system.

Mrs. Bitter did not watch Sam's launch into space. "At the time, it meant nothing to me," she said. However, she now wonders if the monkey suit she designed for Sam has survived. Its whereabouts are unknown.

What is known is that Mrs. Bitter is glad she didn't have to make suits for the entire space primate colony at Brooks. To her, that would not have been "more fun than a barrel of monkeys."

Outstanding Airmen to be receive credit

WASHINGTON -- Air Force leaders want to ensure Airmen get the recognition they deserve for fighting the war on terrorism at home and abroad, and for many more operations critical to national security.

That is why Air Force personnel officials are looking at better ways to apply modern air and space mission criteria to existing awards and decorations to give appropriate credit to outstanding Airmen.

Senior leaders realize "that our folks are making tremendous contributions for which they may not be getting the level of recognition they deserve," said Barbara Murray, chief of Air Force personnel policy's force sustainment division. She explained that the traditional rule followed by other services, that awards are given to troops who put their feet down on the ground, does not necessarily apply to modern air and space professionals.

This new thinking is being applied to the recently created Department of Defense Global War on Terrorism medals. There are two versions, expeditionary for people deployed abroad, and service for those in the continental United States.

"These awards represent a necessary step to ensure we recognize all our deserving Airmen," said Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "We have Airmen all over the world making sacrifices to protect our nation and to give other countries a chance at freedom. Airmen must be recognized for their great work."



Family Support Center Activities

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

3rd Tuesday – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Chapel Annex
For a great morale booster, stop by and join the group for a free lunch. Meet other single parents for open discussions or outings. The Chapel, Life Skills Support Center, and the Family Support Center are sponsoring this class. For more information, contact LaWanda Roper at 536-2444 or Sandra Cervantes at 546-5301. To register, contact the Family Support Center at 536-2444.

SPONSOR TRAINING

Aug. 17 – 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537
Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors. In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Aug. 25 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537
This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

FEDERAL JOB SEARCH

Aug. 24, Sept. 9, Sept. 23 –
11 a.m. - 1 p.m, Bldg. 537
Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system in this three-part series workshop. Bring your most recent resume and any vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Also bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program.

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Bldg. 537
Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. VA representative on site! Please bring a copy of your medical records.

CAR BUYING

Sept. 8 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537
A vehicle is one of the largest purchases you will ever make, second only to buying a home. Find out where the best sources for free information are located, how to budget before you purchase, compare financing versus leasing, and how to get the best deal.

Call 536-2444 for information

AFMC leader nominated for Pacific Command post

By Tech Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

Defense Department officials announced Aug. 19 that Air Force Materiel Command's top leader has been nominated to become the first Air Force officer to ever command U.S. Pacific Command forces.

With Senate confirmation, Gen. Gregory S. Martin, AFMC commander, will head to Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, to take the command reigns from Navy Admiral Thomas Fargo, who is retiring.

Pacific Command's area of responsibility ranges from the west coast of the United States mainland to the east coast of Africa; from the Arctic to Antarctica, including the state of Hawaii and forces in Alaska. In this position, General Martin will command nearly 300,000 soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines in a command that encompasses more than half the world's population. He'll be one of a handful of combatant commanders that report directly to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and the president.

PACOM, as it's known in military circles, includes the area that's home to the world's six largest armed forces – People's Republic of China; United States; Russia; India; North Korea; and South Korea – and five of the seven worldwide mutual defense

treaties.

"I'm extremely honored to have been nominated for the position of commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and if confirmed by the senate, I will be proud to serve with the men and women of this proud joint military command as they continue to forge strong partnerships for peace and security throughout the Pacific region.

"If confirmed for the position, I'll leave Air Force Materiel Command with a great appreciation for the hard work the men and women of this command do every day," General Martin said. "I do regret that my time at Air Force Materiel Command has been so short. We have made great progress toward helping the rest of the Air Force understand and appreciate the critically important role that this command plays in our Air Force. I'm sure many of the things we've begun will continue to bear fruit for years to come."

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, currently 8th Air Force commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., has been nominated to receive his fourth star and become the next AFMC commander. The Senate must also confirm his nomination for promotion and assignment.

"Vicki and I are honored to receive the call to serve in this exciting command," General Carlson said. "General Martin

has started some exciting initiatives and moved the command ahead a great deal in the past few months. I look forward to continuing that pace and keeping AFMC as the pace setter in sustainment, test and acquisition."

General Carlson has been assigned to duty in 10 states and one foreign country. Previous assignments include: tactical systems requirements officer, Office of Low Observables Technology, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force; senior military assistant to the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and senior military assistant to the deputy secretary of defense; director of global power programs in the office of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition in Washington, D.C.; and director of operational requirements in the deputy chief of staff for air and space operations office at Air Force headquarters.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth; his master's degree from Webster University in St. Louis; and is a distinguished graduate in the master's degree program at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. He's also a command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours in the F-4, OV-10, A-10, F-16, F-111, EF-111, AT-38, F-117 and B-52.

More information on the AFMC change of command will follow when it becomes available.



Kazakhstan physicians tour local medical facilities



Photo by Alan Boedeker

Col. Robert Allen, chief, Aeromedical Evacuation Branch, demonstrates a Stryker frame to Kazakhstan physicians touring the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine August 10. The frame is used to transport spinal injury patients.

By Capt. Charles Russell
Medical Intensive Care Flight
Commander — Wilford Hall MC

The 59th Medical Wing, in conjunction with the U.S. Central Command, hosted a delegation of medical officers from Kazakhstan Aug. 9-13. This is the first time Kazakhstan doctors have traveled to the United States to observe U.S. military medicine standards, techniques and training.

"This distinguished group traveled to San Antonio to gather information about our military medical facilities," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Donald Jenkins, chief of trauma and General Surgery Flight commander at Wilford Hall Medical Center. "Our programs, equipment and training are world renowned and they wanted to see the best."

Col. (Dr.) Marat Mekebekov, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ibragim Kydyrmaganbetov, Lt. Col. Ildar Akhmetzhanov, Capt. (Dr.) Andrei Levchenko, and (Dr.) Yerzhan Smaiyl were accompanied by Col. (Dr.) Carey Cappell, command surgeon, U.S. Central Command, as they toured training and healthcare facilities at Ft. Sam Houston, Brooks City-Base and

Lackland Air Force Base.

Highlights of the five-day tour included exposure to flight surgeon, flight nurse/aeromedical evacuation technician, critical care air transport and expeditionary medical support training at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. The tour included practical hands-on exposure to the equipment used by the men and women providing life-sustaining care in these environments every day.

The delegation toured the burn treatment center at the Institute for Surgical Research and physicians from Brooke Army and Wilford Hall Medical Center emergency departments gave facility tours and briefings on being the entry point for trauma care in their respective facilities.

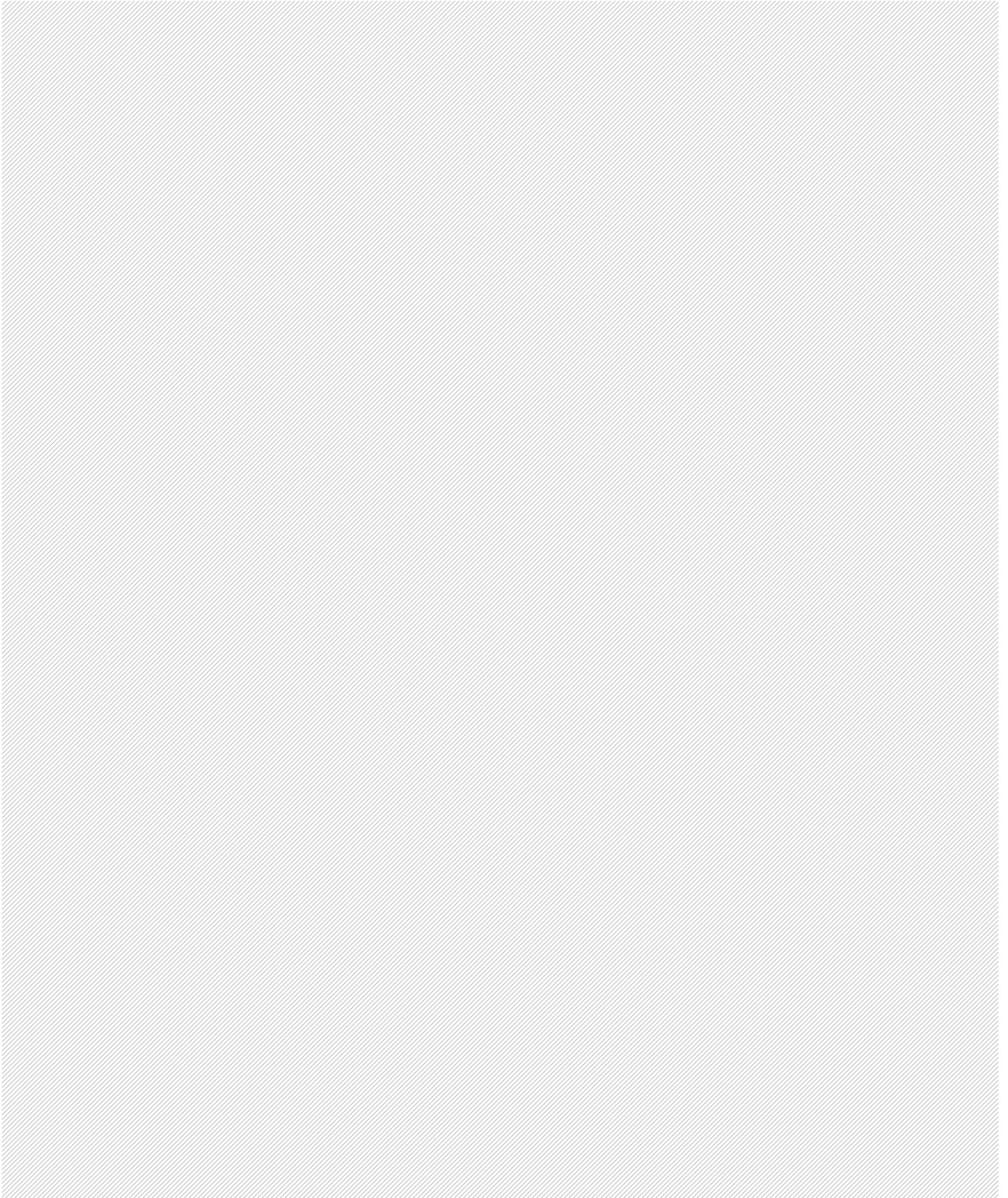
The visiting physicians observed medical procedures in Wilford Hall's cardiac catheterization lab and operating rooms, and received briefings on medical readiness training and civil disaster response preparedness.

"I believe we have witnessed the best delivery of healthcare there is in the world," said Colonel Kydyrmaganbetov.

Assistance with voting registration



The general election in November 2004 is quickly approaching. The Air Force Voting Program is designed to make it very easy for military members and their voting age dependents to take part in that election and other elections held throughout the year. If you or your dependents would like assistance with registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot, call the Brooks City-Base Voting Hotline at 536-2666. You can also contact Major Rob O'Connor at 536-3849 or Lt. Alex Pierce 536-1481, or contact your unit voting assistance counselor. Both the registration and ballot request can be completed with one, simple, half-page form.





Health stops boxer just two bouts from 2004 Olympic games

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
Air Armament Center Public Affairs

While many of us watch the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, hoping the U.S. team increases their medal count, one Eglin Airman will watch knowing he came within two boxing matches of actually being there.

Jose Casasola, an internal security response team member with the 96th Security Forces Squadron here, was well on his way to reaching his Olympic dream when his body refused to cooperate at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team trials Feb. 16-21 in Tunica, Miss. Casasola was one of eight boxers with a shot of representing the United States, but he became ill and could not compete.

"The Olympic trials were really nice. It was just what I had dreamed about," Casasola said. "But after I got there I was having a hard time staying healthy at 112 (pounds) and got really sick."

Unable to participate in his first bout because of his health, Casasola hoped he would recover in time to give it a shot during the second day of the trials.

"The competition was steep and I would have liked to get Jose in there to see that he was the same caliber as the other guys," said Ron Simms, Air Force head coach and 12-time Air Force champion. "He may not have won, but his confidence would have went to another level, allowing him to be the front-runner for the next quad."

But it wasn't meant to be. Coach Simms and Casasola decided he wasn't in top shape, and it was too risky to try it.

"I just felt like I wasn't at 100 percent and you don't want to go out there if you're not," Casasola said. "People die out there and get injured, so I just thought that was the best decision."

Though that may have been the best decision, he said it wasn't an easy one, knowing how close he was to the Olympics and how hard he worked to get there.

"I was disappointed for not only myself, but also for my teammates and my parents," Casasola said. "They all worked



Courtesy Photo

Jose Casasola, an Airman with the 96th Security Forces Squadron, trains for the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team trials while in San Antonio. Casasola won the 112-pound Flyweight Division at the Air Force Boxing Championships and the Armed Forces Boxing Championships.

so hard trying to get me to that level, and so it was really tough."

But it's that disappointment that now drives Casasola to work even harder to qualify for the 2008 games in Beijing.

"Just to have that in the back of my mind, to know that I was that close, and what could have been," Casasola said, "I don't want to be one of those guys who could have been."

Casasola started his drive to Olympic glory late last year, very near where he grew up, at the 2003 Air Force Boxing Team trials at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. As a native of San Antonio, he knew of the stiff competition and what to expect when he arrived to qualify for the team.

"When I was a civilian I used to watch them, and I knew what they had to do to make the team," Casasola said. "The Air Force Boxing Team is one of the main reasons I joined."

Casasola said their days would begin around 4 a.m. with a four or five-mile distance run or a series of sprints.

"The sprints were just killer," he said. "But it was good, it helped us build up our stamina."

After a quick breakfast the boxers then hit the weight room, followed by a trip to the gym for some shadowboxing, hitting the punching bag, working with the medicine ball and sparring.

"When you wake up and you know that you're going to do something you love, even though your body is aching, you can't wait to get back out there," Casasola said. "It's exactly what I want to do."

He said the boxers were then given time off for lunch and to run errands, but returned to the gym later in the day for more work and then finished off after dinner with more running.

"I was in the best shape of my life," Casasola said. "I've been around 90 percent before, but I was 110 percent at that time."

Casasola made the Air Force team by winning the 112-pound Flyweight Division, and advanced to the 2003 Armed Forces Boxing Championships Dec. 7 to 12 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Although he was new to the team Casasola knew how dominant the Army had been in the past and wanted to help take the crown from them.

"That was our main goal to defeat the Army," Casasola said. "We had a good team, five of us were from San Antonio and we all joined (the Air Force) together."

Although the Army would go on to win their 12th consecutive championship, the Air Force team did capture second place, and Casasola won his division to qualify for the 2004 Olympic Boxing Team trials.

"From his work ethic and tenacity I knew the other branches had no one that could stay in there with him," Coach Simms said.

But now that his dream for the Athens games is gone, Casasola has his immediate goals set on the International Military Sports Council Games in October at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Following that he'll train for next year's Armed Forces Boxing Championships and then work towards the 2007 Pan-American Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Although Casasola is currently ranked ninth in the country in the 112-pound division by USA Boxing, the national governing body for Olympic-style boxing, he said he's moving up to the 119-pound Bantamweight division to make it easier on his 5-foot-4-inch frame.

"That's my brother's division, so he's going to have to move up," Casasola said smiling, referring to his brother Carlos, who also competed on the Air Force team, and is an Airman 1st Class at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"Now Jose will not have to dehydrate to make weight," Coach Simms said. "As long as he has the determination and confidence, the sky is the limit for him."

While many people would have crumbled after getting so close to their dream, Casasola said boxers are different than most when it comes to their drive and perseverance.

"You have to have heart to be a boxer," Casasola said. "Anyone can throw a punch, but taking a punch, or ducking the punch, getting out of the way, those are the skills you have to have in boxing."



Lunchtime hoops begins second intramural season



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Teams 1 and 4 compete against each other during the second week of the base's lunchtime basketball league, a 'preseason' for the intramural hoop program.

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 2004 Brooks City-Base Lunchtime Basketball League began its second intramural season Aug. 12 with a four-team field that will play a ten-week schedule that concludes with a postseason tournament in mid-September.

This lunchtime activity, a prelude to the regular intramural hoop season that begins this fall, was reestablished last year by Brooks Fitness Center director Roy Conatzer and former Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman Lt. Col. Craston Artis. They revived the program, after a several year hiatus, because of the popularity of lunchtime pickup games.

"Each team plays everybody in the

league twice. Teams are assigned numbers instead of names," said Fitness Center specialist Tim Martin, who is helping manage the program along with Hosea Talbert, Brooks varsity basketball team head coach and a member of last year's lunchtime hoop league championship team.

The nine-member squads are coached by Desmond Fahie, Team 1; Armond Bailey, Team 2; Robert Taylor, Team 3; and Alphonso Smith, Team 4. The teams are composed of military, civilians, retirees, dependents and contractors.

Games are played Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. at the base gym. The season ends Sept. 9.

Brooks varsity softball teams fall at military world championships

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks men's and women's varsity softball teams earned more than an early exit from the United States Sports Specialty Association Military World Championship Tournament. They also learned what they need to do in the future to beat the world's top military teams.

The Brooks men's squad posted an 0-2 tourney record while the varsity women finished with a 1-2 record at the annual event held this year in Garland, Texas Aug. 20-22. It was the first time in base history that Brooks varsity teams competed in this world-class tournament that featured 13 military teams from throughout the planet.

"We were leading 6-4 against Hurlburt Field (Florida) when they blew the game open in the fifth inning," said Brooks men's varsity coach Dave Miles about a game they eventually lost 21-6. Coach Miles was the only one on his squad who had experience playing at this tourney. He was a member of the 2003 USSSA Military World champion Air Force Academy team.

The combined Air Force Academy-Petersen AFB team won the tourney for the second consecutive year by defeating Fort Sam Houston in the title doubleheader 15-2 and 14-10. Fort Sam Houston, which had played Brooks many times during the regular season, had beaten the undefeated defending world champs 12-9 in an earlier round of the double elimination tourney. Fort Sam Houston advanced to the finals by beating Hurlburt Field, which finished third overall.

"We had a lot of guys who were there for the first time. We faced the best teams



TRISH ESQUIVAL
Women's Softball Head Coach

we've played all year," Coach Miles said. He had told his teammates that every team competing at that level was good.

"You can't give a good team an extra out because they'll take advantage of it," the Brooks men's coach said. He said a few errors against Hurlburt Field led to a big inning rally from which Brooks couldn't recover. After the game, he told his club, "We can only control what we do and limit our mistakes."

Brooks made no mistakes in their second contest against Sheppard Air Force Base. They had the lead going into the fourth inning, but it soon evaporated as Sheppard pounded out a 15-5 victory while eliminating Brooks from the tourney. "We made no errors and we hit the ball hard, but at somebody," Coach Miles said, noting that he was proud of his team for not being intimidated by the competition. "It was a good overall experience. They did the best they could and gave a 100 percent (effort)," he said.

The Brooks women's varsity team sported two seasoned veterans who had played at that level: their head coach Trish Esquivel and southpaw hurler Tech Sgt. M.J. Bell.

"We had a chance to win the game, but we twice left the bases loaded with two outs and did not score," Bell said about losing 5-4 to Fort Meade in the opening round. The USAFSAM pitcher, who hurled all three tourney games for Brooks, had previously played at this world championship event several years ago as a member of the Lackland Lady Warhawks.

"I knew what to expect, which was playing against some very good teams," she said. Brooks rebounded for their second game against Cannon AFB. "We stepped it up," she said of their hitting onslaught that pulverized three Cannon pitchers in a 23-9 romp to their first tourney win. "We were all relaxed and hit (well)," the Brooks pitcher said.

The bottom fell out in their third game when Randolph AFB defeated them 20-3. Errors and a punchless offense led to the team's exit from the tournament, eventually won by the Fort Myer Lady Patriots who defeated Virginia's DSCR Logistics Warriors 12-8.

Should Brooks field varsity teams next year, returning veterans hope to compete again at the military world championships scheduled for Panama City, Fla. in August 2005.

Services repeats as intramural golf champs

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 311th Mission Support Group's Services golf team fulfilled a preseason prediction to continue its run of titles in a sport it has dominated when they won their second consecutive intramural league golf championship Aug. 4. Seeded first in the postseason single-elimination base championship tournament that began Aug. 18 and ends Sept. 1, the Services squad is optimistic about successfully defending its base crown.

"We were confident going into the season that we could win. This is the second year we've won with this group," said team captain Rudy Gonzales about a squad loaded with veterans. At the start of the season in May, Mr. Gonzales predicted that the team was "strong enough to repeat" as champions.

"We only lost two players (from last year's squad), Bob Hager and Manny Garcia," the Services captain said, explaining that the core of their 2003 league



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The services team won the 2004 Brooks intramural golf league championships. Part of the squad (from left) are: Jim Connell, Jose Valadez, Albert Merolli, Rick Cone and Rudy Gonzalez.

and base championship team remained in tact. This year's group featured three former base golf champs: Jose Valadez, Ted Burgess and John McClendon as well as veterans Albert Merolli, Jim Connell, Rick Cone, Mike Franklin, Rick Lunsford and Mr. Gonzales.

Nevertheless, the Services captain admitted he and his teammates were concerned about this year's competition.

"COMM and AFRL are strong and competitive," he said, referring to the 311th Communications Squadron and the Air Force Research Laboratory teams.

However, it was the Air Force Institute for Operational Health squad that kept close to Services in the standings, finishing second for the second consecutive year.

AFIOH also has a score to settle with Services during this year's base championship tourney. In 2003, they lost to Services in the base championship game by just one point.

2004 LEAGUE STANDINGS

| | W | L |
|---------|----------|-----|
| SVS | 18.5 | 3.5 |
| AFIOH | 14.5 | 8 |
| USAFSAM | 12.5 | 8 |
| COMM | 11 | 7 |
| AFCEE | 8.5 | 11 |
| YA | 8 | 11 |
| AFRL | 6 | 16 |
| 68IOS | withdrew | |



'Win the Losing Battle' competition set to begin

"Win the Losing Battle" is a 12-week weight loss competition which combines competitive fun and lifestyle change — including professional individual dietary counseling, confidential weekly weigh-ins, weekly newsletters, healthy food and dining lectures, team-based effort and goal setting, and cool gifts and prizes.

There is no better way to lose weight, learn healthy and nutritious eating habits, increase physical activities and re-define your body into your dream while having a great time with your family, friends and peers, actively coaching you along while exercising with you.

If you are five pounds or more over your ideal body weight and do not know

exactly where to begin or what to do to achieve your goal, then this competition is for you. Get a group of friends or co-workers together and sign your group up for the 3rd annual 'Win the Losing Battle' Weight Loss Competition. Individuals without a team will be placed in a group by contest organizers.

The first weigh-in officially begins on Sept. 22, while the Battle orientation briefing will take place at the Health Fitness Center Annex on Sept. 1, 3, 8 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Competition is open to all active duty dependants, civilians and contractors. You must register to participate. Call 536-4292 for more information or to register for the competition.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Services squad member Jim Connell tees off from the hole number 3 tee box during the base championship elimination tournament that began Aug. 18 and is still in progress. The final is scheduled for Sept. 1.

Legal Briefs: Grandparents' rights

By Capt. Michael Felsen
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

The rights of grandparents to see their grandchildren is often a controversial topic to broach with parents and grandparents and often a confusing area to understand from a legal perspective.

In 2000, the United States Supreme Court decided the case *Troxel vs. Granville*. Petitioner grandparents petitioned a Washington Superior Court for the right to visit their grandchildren. Respondent mother opposed the petition.

The case ultimately reached the Washington Supreme Court, which reversed the order of visitation entered by the superior court. The United States Supreme Court found that the visitation order was an unconstitutional infringement on respondent's fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of her two daughters.

In the case, the Supreme Court said that the "the interest of parents and their care, custody and control of their children is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interest recognized by this Court."

The court cemented the principle that the parent-child relationship cannot be interfered with lightly, not even by grandparents. Texas Law supports this principle as well.

The Texas Family Code allows a grandparent to seek access to only when the following conditions exist: Your child must be the biological or legally adoptive parent of the grandchild and one of the following conditions must also be met: your child is in jail, is incompetent, or is dead, the parents are separated for three months or more, you can prove the parents are abusing the grandchildren, a court has declared the grandchild to be delinquent or in legal need of supervision, your child's parental rights have been terminated by a court order or the grandchildren resided with you six of the last 24 months.

If the conditions are met then the grandparent must still be able to prove that it is in the grandchild's "best interest" to allow the grandparent access to the child.

The parents of the grandchildren can challenge this claim by showing that the grandchild's life would be disrupted, damaged, or that any harm would arise if the grandparent had access to the child.

The courts across the United States and the Texas Family Code support the principle that the child-parent relationship is a fundamental liberty and should not be trampled on lightly.

For more information on this topic and to view the source of this article please visit www.premack.com

Give Life, Donate Blood
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